

# US nuclear accident almost led to disaster

On the day when radioactive water was reported to be leaking from an earthquake-damaged nuclear research laboratory in California, a report yesterday disclosed that last year's accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear power station in Pennsylvania almost led to a disastrous "meltdown" of reactor fuel.

## Meltdown hour away, inquiry team says

From David Cross  
Washington, Jan 25

The accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant in Pennsylvania last year came within an ace of the disaster which supporters of the industry had predicted could never happen, the core meltdown, depicted in the film *The China Syndrome*.

Two hours after the accident began, a foreman noticed that a valve was leaking reactor coolant into the containment building. He blocked off the faulty valve.

"If that valve had remained open, our projections show that within 30 to 60 minutes a substantial amount of reactor fuel would have begun to melt down, requiring at least the precautionary evacuation of thousands of people living near the plant, and potentially serious public health and safety consequences for the immediate area."

This is the conclusion of an independent investigative team led by Mr Mitchell Rogovin, a Washington lawyer, and set up by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The team has just published an account of its findings and recommendations crammed with photographs, diagrams and even the occasional cartoon.

The official report on the incident was published last autumn by a special commission set up by President Carter and headed by Mr John Kemeny, president of Dartmouth College. The commission's findings concluded that although the original

fault at the plant had been mechanical, the accident was aggravated by human errors in responding to it.

The new report says that an accident identical to that at Three Mile Island "is not going to happen again". Not only had changes been made to ameliorate the problems revealed but it had spawned a wide re-examination by the industry and the NRC of many aspects of design and operations contributing to the accident.

Nevertheless, a seven-month investigation by the group led to the conclusion that "unless fundamental changes" such as those listed in the recommendations were made in the way commercial nuclear reactors were built, operated and regulated in the United States, similar accidents, perhaps with the potentially serious consequences to public health and safety and only narrowly averted at Three Mile Island, were likely to recur.

The single theme that runs through the conclusions is that the principal deficiencies in commercial reactor safety today are not hardware problems, but management problems.

The report says: "The problems cannot be resolved by the addition of a few pipes and valves—or for that matter, by a resident federal inspector at every reactor. The most serious problems will be solved only by fundamental changes in the industry and the NRC."

Among the changes suggested by the report are more reporting for future reactors and the establishment of evacuation plans.

## Earthquake damages nuclear laboratory

From Ivor Davis  
Los Angeles, Jan 25

In the wake of yesterday's strong earthquakes in northern California, radioactive water is leaking out of a 30,000 gallon storage tank at the rate of "several gallons an hour" at the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, 40 miles from San Francisco.

But a spokesman at the nuclear research complex insisted today: "It is posing absolutely no health hazard to the public."

The earthquake struck with a rolling force that lasted almost 30 seconds shortly before midday, registering 5.5 on the Richter scale. The epicentre was about 12 miles north-west of Livermore, at the southern end of what is known as the Ansoch fault, seismologists at the University of California in Berkeley reported.

Hundreds of people were evacuated from schools and buildings in several northern California communities and at least 24 injuries were reported, none of them serious.

However, there was serious damage to office buildings at the Lawrence Livermore

Research Laboratory, which is the California equivalent of Britain's Aldermaston.

Mr Jess Garberson, public information officer at the laboratory, said that reports of the radioactive leak were "a storm in a teacup".

"We may seal off the leaking 30,000 gallon tank, and we may not, depending upon what repairs are needed to other buildings which were more seriously damaged."

Mr Garberson said that the tritium content of the water is about half the concentration permitted to be discharged to sewers under federal regulations.

For several years respected seismologists in California have been predicting that the state is due for a huge and damaging earthquake, probably in the next 30 years.

Dr Bruce Bolt, director of the seismographic station at the University of California Berkeley campus, emphasized today that the Livermore earthquake does not change our prediction that there is a better than fifty-fifty chance there will be a major quake in the next decade. This quake has nothing to do with the big one."

## Clapham antique shop's £240 sale to a man looking for art to cheer up his flat may be worth £500,000 'Lost' bust by Bernini discovered

By Geraldine Norman  
Sale Room Correspondent

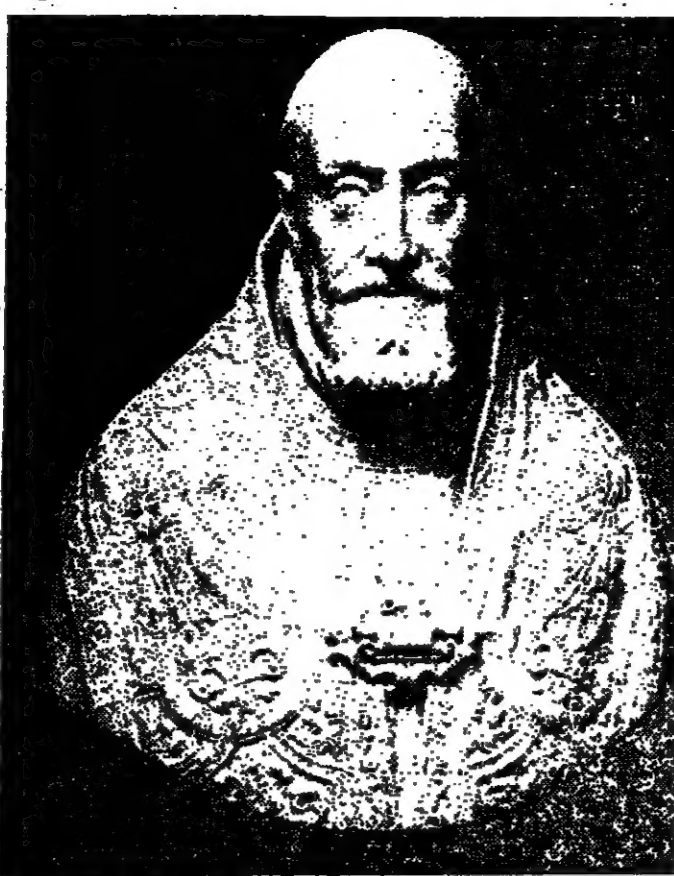
A lost portrait bust of Pope Gregory XV by the great baroque sculptor Giovanni Lorenzo Bernini has come to light in London and has been sent to the Victoria and Albert Museum. It was purchased by Mr Nicholas Meinertzhagen, aged 36, an antiquarian book dealer, in a Clapham antique shop for £240, simply as a bust of a pope; now that its attribution to Bernini has been established, it could be worth as much as £500,000.

The Clapham dealer bought the bust at an auction run by Christie's South Kensington branch of the contents of a Swindon Hall, near Loughborough, Leicestershire, on behalf of Lord Lanesborough. He paid £85. Christie's described it as the "bust of a pope".

While the notice beside the bust in the Victoria and Albert Museum identifies the Lanesborough provenance, Lord Lanesborough said yesterday that he had heard nothing about the discovery. "It's awful, I'm really shaken," he said. "My solicitors will have something to say to Christie's."

The contents of Swindon Hall belonged to a family trust and were auctioned by Christie's in October 1978 for a total of £117,973. The bust had always stood in the dining room, according to Lord Lanesborough. "I imagine it would have been bought by my great-grandfather, the sixth earl," he said. He had bought many pieces of sculpture in Italy in the late nineteenth century.

The identity of the sculpture was discovered partly by Mr Meinertzhagen, who is the nephew of Mr Daniel Meinertzhagen, former chairman of Lasorda, and partly by the Victoria and Albert Museum. He had been looking for some works of art to cheer up his sparsely furnished flat in south London when the sculpture caught his eye. He sensed its



The bust of Pope Gregory XV by Bernini.

quality but bought it merely to decorate his flat.

He took out some books on the history of the papacy at the museum library. Turning a page he found himself looking at a photograph of a bronze of Gregory XV by Bernini almost identical to his.

Although the possibility that he had a Bernini marble crossed his mind, his first assumption was that he had a copy. He telephoned the museum staff and told them it was long odds against, but both Mr Anthony Radcliffe and Mr Charles Avery from the sculpture department were

sufficiently interested to go to see the bust. Both thought it likely that it was a Bernini. They asked to take it back to the museum, clean it and think about it.

Bernini is recorded as making three busts of Alessandro Ludovisi in 1621, the year he was elected to the Papacy as Gregory XV, one marble and two bronzes. A further bronze version was cast the next year for Cardinal Scipione Borghese.

The present whereabouts of the three bronzes, virtually identical to the marble bust, is known. But the marble has not been known about since the late seventeenth century.

## Four killed in battle at Pretoria bank

From Eric Marsden  
Cape Town, Jan 25

Three black terrorists and a woman who were among 25 hostages they were holding were killed today in a brief gun battle in a Pretoria bank that the gang had seized and held for six hours.

Fifteen other hostages, all bank employees, and two policemen were injured in the battle. The dead woman was named as Miss Cindy Anderson of Pretoria.

In negotiations earlier, the terrorists had threatened to shoot the hostages if their demands were not met, including the release of a well-known prisoner held a long way from Pretoria. That was believed to be Mr Nelson Mandela, leader of the banned African National Congress, who is imprisoned on Robben Island, near Cape Town.

This is the first time that black terrorists have seized a building and taken hostages in South Africa although in recent months there have been several armed raids on police stations by terrorist gangs.

After the bank siege ended tonight, General M. Geldenhuys, the Commissioner of Police, said that the gang was armed with Russian AK-47 automatic rifles and carried a bag filled with explosives and grenades. A police assault force entered the bank just after 7 pm. There was an exchange of gunfire lasting about two minutes, followed by an explosion.

The police came out and ambulances went in to tend the wounded. A policeman shouted before he was driven off: "They threw a hand grenade."

The branch of the Volkskas Bank, at Silverton, to the east of Pretoria, was cordoned off minutes after the terrorists moved in at about 1 pm.

Mr Louis le Grange, the Minister of Police, said in Cape Town tonight that the gang had fired on the police before the police attacked the bank. When the firing was heard, he said, "there was no stopping the police, who stormed in and shot the terrorists."

## Steelmakers fail to stop strike spreading into private sector

By Peter Hill  
and Donald MacIntyre

Sixteen private sector steelmakers yesterday failed to stop the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation extending the steel strike, in its fourth week, to 20,000 of its members from tomorrow morning.

The independent companies had sought injunctions against the ISTC but after a three-hour hearing, Mr Justice Kenneth Jones refused the plea. The companies are expected to challenge the ruling and arrangements have been made for Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, to preside over a special Court of Appeal today.

An ISTC spokesman said after the ruling that the union was "absolutely delighted" with the decision.

"We have won the first round of the battle and we feel we are 90 per cent on our way to victory if there is an appeal. It seems almost certain, in view of today's ruling that the strike will spread as planned on Sunday."

Prospects of an early end to

the strike faded further last night after an abortive private meeting between the union leaders and senior management.

Mr William Sirs, general secretary of the ISTC, made it clear that fresh amendments to the British Steel Corporation's last pay offer were not enough to prompt a renewal of formal negotiations. He said it was likely the strike would continue at least until the week after next.

The meeting was the first between the ISTC and the BSC since January 7. Mr Sirs was accompanied by Mr Hector Smith, general secretary of the National Union of Reblummen.

Mr Robert Scholey, BSC's chief executive, said that the employers were standing by the structure of the rejected January 7 offer of 8 per cent tied to national agreements on efficiency and flexibility and 4 per cent guaranteed productivity money to be negotiated at local level.

The BSC, however, modified its previous insistence on an

effective written commitment by

the unions to its job-cutting plans as part of the pay deal and gave a clear hint that it was ready to make a modest improvement on the pay offer if the other conditions were agreed. Neither side would disclose any figures last night, but it was thought that this might be 1 or 2 per cent more.

Mr Sirs said: "We do not feel progress was sufficient. We are disappointed in this but if they ask us to any further meetings we will go and see them."

Mr Sirs added: "As things are at present it looks as though the strike will go into its sixth week."

Mr Scholey said after the meeting that he was disappointed that no progress had been made.

He said: "We invited Mr Sirs and Mr Smith to join with the other union leaders in the negotiations tomorrow but this invitation was turned down quite flatly and, I may say,

Continued on page 2, col 5

## Eisenhower thought Churchill obsolete

From Michael Leapman  
New York, Jan 25

Newly-discovered documents disclose that President Eisenhower had a low regard for Winston Churchill in his last years as Prime Minister. This had a great deal to do with Eisenhower's resistance to Churchill's wish to strengthen the "special relationship" between Britain and the United States in the early 1950s, leading to the quarrel between the two countries over Suez.

The documents are two memoranda which Eisenhower dictated after meeting Churchill in Paris in 1951 and in New York in January 1955, just before he assumed office. They were found among his personal papers at the Eisenhower Library at Abilene, Kansas, by Professor Francis Loewenheim of Rice University in Houston, Texas.

After the 1951 meeting, Eisenhower wrote: "Frankly, I believe that, subconsciously, my great friend is trying to relieve the burden of his greatest glory by regaining the Prime Minister's longer absorbs new ideas; exhortation and appeals to the emotions and sentiment still have some effect on him—exposition does not."

In 1953 his view remained unchanged: "Mr Churchill is as charming and as interesting as ever, but he is quite definitely showing the effects of the passing years. He has fixed in his mind a certain international relationship he is trying to establish."

"This is that Britain and the British Commonwealth are not to be treated just as other nations would be treated by the United States in our complicated foreign problems. On the contrary, he most earnestly hopes and intends that those countries shall enjoy a relationship which he thinks will recognize the special place of partnership they occupied with us during World War II."

Although Eisenhower accepted that on some issues close consultation between the two countries would be needed, he believed: "We will certainly be far better advised to treat, publicly, every country as a sovereign equal. To do otherwise would arouse resentment and damage the understandings we are trying to promote."

Returning to Churchill, he continued: "He is unquestionably influenced by old prejudices or instinctive reaction... He still develops an almost childlike faith that the answers are to be found merely in British-American partnership."

"Winston is trying to relive the days of World War II. In those days he had the enjoyable feeling that he and our President were sitting on some rather Olympian platform with respect to the rest of the world."

Eisenhower was trying to impress on Churchill, with little success, the importance he placed on European unity and a single European army. The British Prime Minister, however, "does not respond with any enthusiasm," the President complained.

Eisenhower, noting the rising nationalism and the developing countries, saw clearly the danger that the communists

Continued on page 4, col 7

## Nato offer of arms control talks to Russia

From Michael Horvath  
Brussels, Jan 25

The United States and its European allies in Nato today signalled their willingness to continue talks on arms control with Moscow despite the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the strain in East-West relations.

In a statement here the alliance declared that it was still firmly committed to the "parallel" approaches of modernising its long-range theatre nuclear forces in

Europe and at the same time seeking an agreement with the Soviet Union to limit the number of such weapons on either side.

The statement was issued after the first meeting here of the special consultative group on arms control under the chairmanship of Mr Reginald Biederman, the director for political and military affairs of the State Department.

The setting up of this new body was agreed at the joint meeting of Nato foreign and

defence ministers last month which decided to deploy 572 new Pershing and cruise missiles in Europe and coupled this with an offer to negotiate limits on such weapons with the Russians. The task of the new Nato body is to monitor the progress of negotiations. In practice there will be nothing for it to do for the foreseeable future since Moscow has rejected Nato's offer.

In any case there could be no question of moving on to discuss limits on theatre nuclear

weapons in Europe so long as the Salt 2 treaty remains unratified by the United States Senate.

A senior American official in Brussels said that while he saw little prospect of progress for at least the next six months, he believed the Russians remained interested in arms control.

The Nato strategy is to offer the Russians the prospect of a reduction in the planned deployment of 572 new long-range warheads in Europe in return for matching cuts

## Spanish general removed amid failed coup reports

From Harry Debelius  
Madrid, Jan 25

A general known for his right-wing views has been removed from his post as the commander of Spain's crack Brunete Armoured Division after what one Madrid newspaper today called "an attempted coup."

Lieutenant-General Torres Rojas was transferred yesterday to the post of military governor of the north-western province of La Coruña. The transfer, coming only seven months after his appointment, surprised military and civilian officials here.

The Madrid evening newspaper *Diario 16* said in its final edition today in a four-column front page headline: "An attempted military coup has been thwarted in Madrid." A sub-headline added: "For this reason General Torres Rojas, commander of the armoured division, was dismissed yesterday."

A few hours later the Defence Ministry dismissed reports of a military conspiracy as "sensational journalism". So far there is little detail available about the transfer of the general. It is known, however, that Major Gonzalez

Cuevas is under arrest in one of Spain's north African enclaves, apparently in connexion with the matter. It is believed that other officers are also under arrest, including at least one of field grade or general rank.

How far the alleged plans went is not known. It is possible that rather than an attempted coup, the case simply involved indiscipline at a high level.

According to *Diario 16*, the alleged plotters "intended to install a retired general, who enjoys considerable prestige in some circles, as the chief of government."

The newspaper added that what set off the military reaction was the assassination on January 10 of an army major who was the provincial police chief in the Basque province of Alava.

This was the second attempted coup, if the report is correct, since the death of General Franco. In November 1978, an attempt code-named Operation Galaxy was thwarted at the last moment by Señor Adolfo Suárez, the Prime Minister, as King Juan Carlos left the country on a South American visit. Several of the plotters have been released.

## We'll be needed in the 1980s too



Vast human tragedies in Africa and south-east Asia are still among our major concerns—and a purely natural disaster calling for international aid occurs on average every 23 days. Throughout the 1970s the Red Cross was heavily involved in world-wide relief work. The 1980s will certainly make similar demands. People all over the world were grateful for the wonderfully generous public response to our Relief Appeals during the 70s. We hope and believe that we can rely on your support in the future. Only with the help of your donations can we take help to those who need it.

**The Red Cross**  
The British Red Cross Society, Dept. X3,  
9 Grosvenor Crescent, London, SW1X 7EL.

(If you require receipt, please enclose one)  
I enclose £ \_\_\_\_\_ as my contribution to your overseas relief work.  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

## Inquiry into cell deaths

A Commons select committee is to inquire into deaths in police custody. Mr Alexander Lyon, Labour MP for York and the East, said: "There is no intention of having a witch-hunt, but the police have been given enormous power in our democracy. The public have to be sure they are not breaking the rules."

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**Pensioners lose**  
A parliamentary dispute is expected over the Government's decision not to make the shortfall in the November pensions increases, caused by under-estimating the rise in earnings last year. Further delay is likely in the committee stage of the Social Security Bill. Page 3

**Mr Stonehouse's job**  
Mr John Stonehouse, the former MP and minister, met the press for the first time since his release from prison. He explained why he is an unpaid worker for a community group in the East End of London. Page 2

**Sinai withdrawal**  
The Israeli Army handed over to Egypt the strategically most important normal Sinai on the eve of the opening of relations between the two countries scheduled for today. Page 5



## Dr Sakharov is not to be prosecuted

Dr Andrei Sakharov, the banished Soviet nuclear physicist, will not be prosecuted, an aide of President Brezhnev declared. He will also be free to continue his scientific work. Dr Sakharov has been awarded the Norwegian Prize for his courageous defence of free speech and the western world. Page 4

Leader page 15  
Letters: On the Moscow Olympics from Mr Richard Cohen, and others: of Civic Service. From Mr Michael Mauder. Page 4

Features: The Soviet Union and Islam; Deutsche mark and the dollar. Page 14

Fred Emery's column: Alan Hamilton among the striking steel workers of Scunthorpe. Cyril Bainbridge on brass bands. Page 6, 7

Krugly: Six mixed-race sides in Lions tour. Rugby: Football: Norman Fox previews the fourth round of the FA Cup. Golf: Peter Ryder reports on the Andy Williams tournament. Racing: Prospects for Cheltenham. Page 16

John Higgins talks to Patrick Garland about *Beecham*; Irving Waller on *Liberty Hall* at Greenwich. Page 17-22

Business News, pages 17-22  
Stock markets: Equities made a firm close to the account, although gilts were under as they continued to digest the two new "taps". The FT index closed 3.7 up at 452.4.

Iran polls: Islamic women in Tehran consult each other as they mark their first-ever ballot paper to elect a president for Iran. Front-runners for the post are Mr Abolhassan Bani-Sadr, Finance Minister, and Mr Hassan Rabati, spokesman for the Revolutionary Council. Page 4

Robinson affair: TGWU disciplines members for not joining strike over dismissed convenor. Page 2

Citizenship: Guernsey is to define its citizens. Page 3

Brussels: EEC defends "normal level" of butter sales to Russia. Page 4

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HOME NEWS

# Commons select committee to inquire into deaths of people in police custody

By Peter Evans

The newly appointed House of Commons Home Affairs Select Committee is to inquire into deaths in police custody. There were 245 between 1970 and 1979, figures issued by the Home Office after pressure from Labour MPs with Mr Michael Meacher, Labour MP for Oldham West, prominent among them. There have been rumours about the death of Mr James Kelly after his arrest by Merseyside Police.

Mr Alexander Lyon, MP for York, a former Home Office minister in the Labour Government and senior Labour member of the committee, said in the *News at One* programme yesterday: "We want to know if the system is operating properly. Clearly the public have a right to know about it."

"There is no intention of having a witch-hunt, but the police have been given enormous power in our democracy. For that, they had to be accountable."

"The public have to be sure they are not breaking the rules. They may not have done, but the public have the right to know."

Mr Lyon told the committee would hold one meeting on the subject initially, to which it is asking Mr J. W. D. Crane, Chief Inspector of Constabulary, and Sir Thomas Hedderley, Director of Public Prosecutions, to give evidence.

The committee wants to know what they are doing about allegations and what systems they are employing. Mr Lyon added that if it turned out that further investigation was necessary the committee might well hold a full one. "We would have to see in the light of the evidence," he said.

The move by the select committee follows a controversy in which police organizations have fiercely defended the service's reputation.

Mr James Jardine, chairman of the Police Federation, attacked a "most unwarranted and unsubstantiated smear on the reputation of the police service over the 245 deaths in police custody. Speaking in Coventry, he rejected demands for a Government-appointed public inquiry.

He said: "There is nothing in the figures which even begins to justify the campaign which is now being waged in the press and which is about to be launched in Parliament."

"I say it is a vicious attack on the integrity of thousands of existing officers who have had responsibility for making arrests and for the custody of prisoners."

Chief constables criticized: Some police chiefs "are beginning to think they are above the law," Mr Lyon said in the Commons yesterday. "The Press Association reports."

"They must never be allowed to think that or that they are above the constraints of democratic control," he said.

Mr Lyon, in a short adjournment debate on the subject, said that police corruption is never going to be brought to light because of existing members of the force and some of the high positions in the Metropolitan Police.

After saying that the central issue was lack of control over what police did, Mr Lyon said, "The weakness is accountability of chief officers."

"There is concern, especially in Lancashire, about the refusal of chief officers to discuss police activities in their areas," he said.

And he said that Mr John Alderson, Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall, and Mr James Anderson, the Chief Con-

stable of Greater Manchester, "each illustrate the dangers of what I call the irresponsibility of chief officers."

"Mr Anderson succumbed to the attractions of the media," Mr Lyon said.

"He will now say the most outrageous things, including that he won't obey the law, to get himself on television."

"He is a good officer, but he has succumbed to this temptation, because he believes he is above the control of the police authority and apparently the Home Secretary."

"Mr Alderson also regards himself as irresponsible," Mr Lyon said. "He believes he can control the media, and he believes police do the work of the social security department and housing department, without overall control of the local authorities."

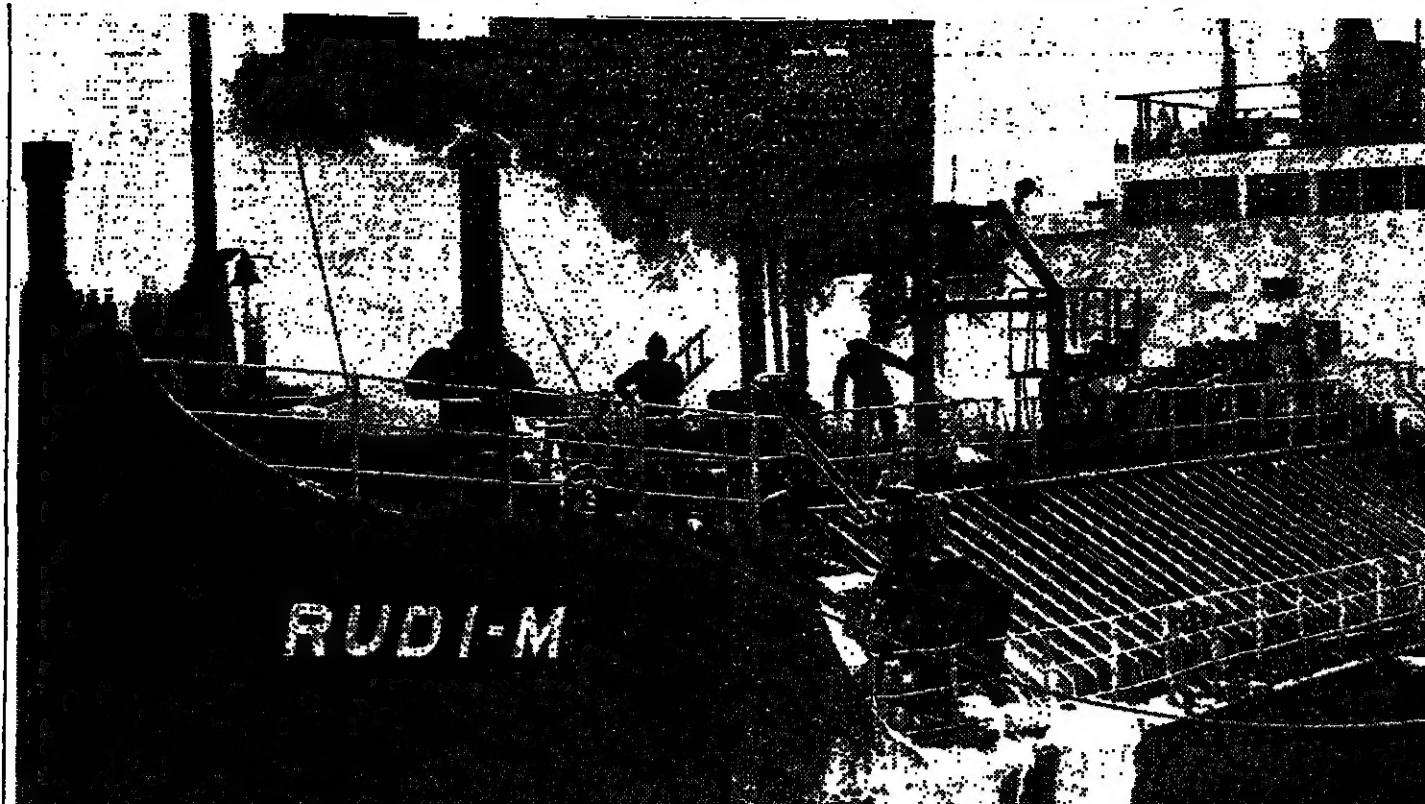
"The reason they take that view is that chief officers are beginning to think they are above the law. They must never be allowed to think that, or that they are above the constraints of democratic control. If they think that, officers below are also likely to think that."

Replying, Mr Leon Brittan, QC, a Minister of State at the Home Office, said he felt that the present basic structure of accountability was much more appropriate than any alternative.

"The process of historical growth has provided us with a constitutional framework, which is basically a sound one."

"It does not follow that because things are done in a false one, unless you are able to establish that some alternative structure would make it less likely that anything would happen."

Mr Brittan said the present basic structure was much more appropriate than any alternative, such as a national police force under direct control of the Home Secretary.



Fireman killed in ship: A fireman plunged to his death in the burning hold of this ship yesterday, as he and 39 colleagues fought a fire in the vessel that lasted for hours. Four firemen who tried to rescue him were taken to hospital and two of them were kept in.

The fire was in the 800 ton tanker Rudi-M, which was being refitted at Regent's Canal Dock, Poplar, east London. Glass fibre and other materials used in refitting produced fumes and extreme heat, a fire brigade official said.

"We are not sure what happened, but one fireman either fell into the hold or there was a partial collapse", he said.

The man who died was temporary leading fireman Stephen Maynard, aged 26, of Lichfield Road, East Ham, London. He was married.

Photograph by David Jones

## MP calls for inquiry into BSC deal

From Tim Jones

A Welsh MP yesterday called for an inquiry into a British Steel Corporation contract which commits it to buying limestone worth hundreds of thousands of pounds, most of which is not needed and has not been delivered.

Mr Roy Hughes, Labour member for Newport, said an advertisement he had received from the corporation pointed to past managerial misjudgements affecting the Llanwern steelworks, where manning levels are to be halved.

He said that Mr Peter Allen, Welsh division director, had told him in a letter that the corporation was buying 2,000 tons a week at present prices worth £300,000 a year, from the Baxacome quarry in the Cheddar Gorge.

The contract was for 15 years and as it was index-linked the price would have tripled by the time it ran out in 1987, Mr Hughes said. Mr Allen wrote to him that the works had used only 800 tons a week during 1979. The additional 1,200 tonnes ordered was not delivered.

Last night, Mr Peter Smith, a director for Amey Roadstone, the company which owns the quarry, confirmed details of the contract. He said that his organization had invested £3m to meet the order.

## More flying pickets in S Yorkshire

From Nicholas Timmins

Steel strike leaders in south Yorkshire plan to increase the number of flying pickets next week, once the private sector has joined the strike. The union and the employers believe that most private-sector steel workers in the area will join the strike, however reluctantly.

Feeling among the private steelworkers against the strike call is strong, even among union officials. Mr Michael Adams, secretary of the private-sector joint branches in Sheffield, said: "Our fear is that if we are fetched out, there is going to be a lot of jobs lost in the private sector. At the end of the day, when we have won the battle for the [the BSC men] they will say: 'Thanks very much, go back to work and pick up the pieces'. But some of the pieces will be missing."

If the private sector does join

the strike and many pickets believe there will be trouble on the picket lines if it does not lay-offs with start quickly.

Mr Nicholas Kemp, director of the Engineering Employers' Association in Sheffield, said that Firth Brown, the largest private-sector company, would lay off 3,000 manual workers from Monday, and that other lay-offs would probably follow if the dispute dragged on. Some companies might not reopen, he said.

The south Yorkshire strikers feel they have been more active than strikers elsewhere. Their area's strike committee has sent scouting parties to the Midway works, a major steelworks in Anglia ports and strike leaders say they will pay increasing attention to stockholders in the Midlands and Manchester areas.

Contact has been made with conveners at Ford's works in Dagenham, and with members of the Transport and General Workers' Union at Dagenham docks, where steel is imported for Ford.

Mr Tom Barnfield, a member of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation executive, said: "They have told us that once we give them an official letter with our headquarters, which is being done, and once we have a token picket down there, no steel will move through."

Early in the dispute the steelworkers took advice from Mr Arthur Scargill, the Yorkshire miners' president, and the miners have provided some office space and a weekly cash collection.

But at many of the 100-plus stockholders and private companies that have been picketed, steel is still moving.

Pickets increased: Three hundred and twenty extra pickets are being drafted into the West Midlands tomorrow, and on Monday, to intensify the blockade of steel stockholders.

## TGWU disciplines members for not joining BL walkout

By Clifford Webb

Midlands Industrial Correspondent

A second union is disciplining its members for refusing to join the "on-off" official strike at BL's Longbridge car plant which failed to secure the reinstatement of Mr Derek Robinson, the dismissed conveyor.

Last week the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (AUWEW) withdrew the credentials of Mr Edward Howard, a shop steward, and fined him £10, despite the fact that the workers he represented had voted to cross picket lines.

The Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU) is

taking similar action against its members at the same factory.

So far, five have appeared before branch committees to answer charges that they brought the union into disrepute by failing to obey an official strike call. They were fined the maximum of £10 each and a warning was issued about their future behaviour. More hearings are believed to be planned.

The regional committee of the TGWU declared the strike official but changed its mind two days later when Mr Robinson's own union, the AUWEW, declined to take similar action.

## Protests as peace man is expelled

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, personally took the decision to exclude from Britain yesterday Mr Romesh Chandra, president of the World Peace Council, on ground that it would not be "conducive to the public good."

As Mr Chandra left by air for Warsaw, there were strong protests by left-wing MPs and others in favour of his being allowed to attend a two-day weekend conference organized by the All Britain Peace Liaison Group.

Mr Chandra, who was detained overnight at Queen's Building, Heathrow, elected to go to Warsaw rather than Vienna, from where he had arrived at 3.30 pm on Thursday.

Mr Whitelaw used his power under the Immigration Act, 1971, to exclude Mr Chandra, an Indian citizen.

Mr Robert Crier, Labour MP for Keighley, commented: "The Government has become so obsessed with events in Afghanistan that it is restricting fair and free comment on behalf of those who wish to see peace prevail rather than the cold war."

## Teachers in two areas threaten strikes over cuts

By Diana Geddes

Education Correspondent

Teachers in 30 schools in Avon are to go on strike during the next three weeks, starting from Tuesday, in protest against education cuts in the county. Teachers in Trafford, Greater Manchester, are also threatening to strike.

The National Union of Teachers decided yesterday to intensify its campaign against the cuts in Avon, where members have been refusing to teach lessons in accordance with new timetables since the beginning of the spring term.

Classes for pupils who are due to take CSE, O level or A level examinations this year, will continue to be held by NUT members in church halls.

## Council house repairs may go to contractors

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

Liberals on Liverpool City Council are to propose a motion at a meeting on Wednesday that repairs to council properties should be carried out by private contractors.

It is believed to be the first time that any large local authority in Britain has contemplated such a move. The Liberals hold 30 of the 99 seats, and Mr Richard Kemp, Liberal housing spokesman, said yesterday that he fully expected to obtain the support of the 23 Conservatives.

The Liberals say the housing department has nearly 50,000 repairs outstanding. Some 3,500 dwellings are vacant, almost a quarter of the housing stock is officially classified as hard to let and properties built only 10 years ago are already scheduled for demolition.

## Appeal by union seeking to sue 'The Times'

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

The Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union is appealing against a decision by a High Court judge that it was not entitled to sue *The Times* for defamation.

Last December, Mr Justice O'Connor ruled, on a preliminary issue of law, that a trade union could not bring an action for libel in its own name. The EETPU had sued *The Times* News Limited, William Rees-Mogg, editor of *The Times*, and Mr Paul Roudledge, the newspaper's Labour Editor, alleging that an article published in November, 1977, was defamatory.

The appeal is not expected to be heard for several months.

## Strike 'has put 5,000 drivers out of work'

By Our Correspondent

Steel pickets tightened their grip on Scottish oil ports and storage yards yesterday when Peterhead dockers agreed to black steel shipments to offshore installations.

Their agreement came after similar moves by dockers in Aberdeen, Dundee, and Montrose.

A representative of the pickets in Aberdeen said: "They have agreed not to move steel, either by fabrication, or any steel in or out of the bases at Peterhead. They will however move steel between the yards for their own consumption."

Shop stewards at the McDermott construction yard in Ardersier, Highlands, have decided not to handle steel which may be moved through the quayside.

Mr Robert Roy, shop steward convenor, said: "This means that oil companies will be unable to divert supplies through the quay which could have handled a number of supply vessels daily."

## Private sector steelmen lose court battle

Continued from page 1

Surprisingly because as we understand it there will be unions represented at those talks who are out on strike in support of the ISIC and the NUB."

But on the basis of half a loaf being better than none, the BSC negotiators approach tomorrow's talks with cautious optimism. During yesterday's discussions the BSC team underlined once again the financial problems which the corporation faced and the union leaders were told that there was no question of the BSC being able to offer anything approaching the 20 per cent rise, which rank and file members now aspire to.

The BSC is insistent that there can be no relaxation of the position, which it has adopted throughout the negotiations and that the pay dispute can only be resolved through a genuinely self-financing deal.

BSC negotiators also emphasized that agreement on productivity must be backed up with an enabling agreement.

## Steel 'swop shops' will help companies hit by strike

From Frances Gibb

Corby

Steel "swop shops" are being set up for the hundreds of small firms throughout the country as a contingency measure against the spread of the steel strike to the private sector tomorrow.

The move started in the Midlands where the Engineering Industries Association and the East Midlands Engineering Employers' Association have called on member companies to make available any surplus steel they have so that it can be channelled to those in need.

Mr Jeremy Blake, principal regional secretary of the Engineering Industries Association, said: "We thought we would try this so that members would have access to some form of steel should all normal outlets be blocked."

He has already received 30 offers of steel amounting to 500 tons, but so far only four requests for help. "Everyone seems to be all right at the moment, but in a fortnight it might be a very different matter," he said.

His members, about half of whom have fewer than 20 employees, will be badly affected if steelworkers go on strike in the private sector. "Then there could be a flood of requests," he said.

All kinds of steel have been made available. One man telephoned with an offer of 50 tons from a building site he had just been working on.

The idea is now spreading to the 5,000 other firms in the association's 10 regions, in particular the eastern, north-west and Glasgow regions.

## Weather forecast and recordings

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars. FRONTS Warm, Cold, Occluded. Symbols are an advancing edge.



becoming NE, moderate; se slight.

English Channel (E): Wind E, light; increasing fresh; se smooth, becoming moderate. St George's Channel: Wind SE, moderate, increasing fresh; se slight, becoming moderate. Irish Sea: Wind Variable, becoming SE, light to moderate, se smooth to slight.

Yesterday

London: Temp: max 6 am 14.6°C, 9°C (48°F); min 6 pm 6°C, 4°C (37°F). Humidity: 6 am, 71 per cent; 9 am, 74 per cent; 12 noon, 71 per cent; 3 pm, 68 per cent; 6 pm, 68 per cent. Bar: mean sea level, 6 pm 1,000 millibars = 29.53 in.

Overseas selling prices:

Australia	\$1.50	Austria	Scs 30
Belgium	80.00	Belgium	80.00
Canada	80.00	Canada	80.00
France	80.00	France	80.00
Germany	80.00	Germany	80.00
Italy	80.00	Italy	80.00
Japan	80.00	Japan	80.00
Netherlands	80.00	Netherlands	80.00
Portugal	80.00	Portugal	80.00
Spain	80.00	Spain	80.00
Sweden	80.00	Sweden	80.00
Switzerland	80.00	Switzerland	80.00
USA	80.00	USA	80.00
West Germany	80.00	West Germany	80.00
Yugoslavia	80.00	Yugoslavia	80.00

## Scots to block conscription

From Our Correspondent

Glasgow

The Scottish trade unions would not accept conscription as the way to deal with youth unemployment, Mr James Milne, general secretary of the Scottish Trades Union Congress, said yesterday.

But his general council had

not yet discussed "the kite flying exercise of Commons" on Thursday.

Mr Milne told delegates at the end of an all-day conference on unemployment and public sector cuts in Glasgow that pressure was growing on the union movement to call a one-day strike on May 14, the TUC's national day of action.

## Oil ports support blacking

From Our Correspondent

Steel pickets tightened their grip on Scottish oil ports and storage yards yesterday when Peterhead dockers agreed to black steel shipments to offshore installations.

Their agreement came after similar moves by dockers in Aberdeen, Dundee, and Montrose.

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## Mr Stonehouse in voluntary work

By Craig Seton

Mr John Stonehouse, the former MP and minister, met the press yesterday for the first time since his release from prison nearly six months ago and explained why he is devoting much of his time as an unpaid volunteer with a community group in the East End of London.

Speaking at the tiny East Ham office of Community Links, Mr Stonehouse, aged 54, dressed in brown corduroy trousers, a white roll-neck sweater, his hair greying, spoke enthusiastically of his new work and, in passing, described how life had put him "through the mill."

"It was explained that the photographers were not admitted, was to establish the truth of Mr Stonehouse's work and, it was hoped, to stop the press hounding him. This week his three children wrote to Fleet Street editors 'begging' them to leave him alone after reports appeared about a new flat he is to share with Mrs Sheila Buckley.

Mr Stonehouse clearly has not fully recovered from the

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## HOME NEWS

## Councils offered freer hand in spending by revised local Bill

By Christopher Warman  
Local Government Correspondent

The Local Government, Planning and Land (No 2) Bill was published yesterday in its new form, containing a modest 149 clauses compared with its predecessor, the 246-clause version of last December.

It demonstrates, perhaps, the effectiveness of the Government's desire to curtail waste, for it includes all the vital measures on local authority spending, with some changes of emphasis, in a significantly shorter Bill.

The Government, and more particularly the ministers responsible for local government, believe it provides a more comprehensive package for local authorities giving them more freedom within a framework than before.

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, and Mr Tom King, Minister for Local Government, have emphasized their intention to free councils from central control.

Mr King has described the Bill as a package which depends on trust in local authorities, and because that involves some risk, it is that trust is abused, the Government retains fall-back powers to control or penalize any such abuse.

Local government has not been convinced of the arguments, and is united in opposing proposals for a new block grant system. Concessions on proposed controls on capital spending have gone some way to answer local criticism, but central and local government seem to be set for a bitter battle over the new few months.

Sir Horace Cutler, leader of the Greater London Council, added his condemnation of the proposals to those of the local authorities yesterday.

Although it was clear about the changes, he said: "I am very sorry indeed that the total package of controls will still put local authorities in a straitjacket."

"We will still be within tight ministerial control and the new

form of block grant continues to represent far too detailed an interference with local accountability," Sir Horace said.

Ministers insist that they are not preventing local authorities responding to local needs and not stopping them from putting up the rates to the level they want. They are, however, concerned with stopping public money being used beyond a certain level.

That is why the block grant proposals remain intact. But the way in which the grant is introduced, and the way in which the needs of a local authority are assessed remain open for discussion, Mr King said.

The most important omissions from the new Bill concern improvements to the local ombudsman system, and several of the proposed improvements to the working of the planning system, particularly those concerned with the restoration of land after mineral working.

In addition, proposals for the provision of a gypsy caravan sites, for relaxation of statutory duties and controls in the transport field, and some minor rating provisions have disappeared.

The block grant system is central to the Bill. It is designed to relate each council's entitlement more closely to its fixed "standard expenditure" so that any authority spending significantly above the level will have to bear an increasing proportion of the burden itself.

Local government protests against proposals for capital spending, divided into five main blocks, convinced the Government that the controls would be too tight. Under the proposals, councils will have more freedom to spend money on their own priorities within an overall allocation.

In other ways, the Bill resembles its former self, withdrawn from the House of Lords after Labour opposition. The provisions remove or relax a number of ministerial controls.

## Whitehall efficiency talks will study costs

By Peter Hennessy

The Commons Select Committee on the Treasury and the Civil Service will open a dialogue on Whitehall efficiency with the Civil Service Department on Monday. The inquiry will be completed by March, when the committee will transfer its attention to the Treasury after the White Paper on public expenditure and the Budget.

The witnesses to be called on Monday are Mr Paul Channon, Minister of State at the Civil Service Department, and two officials, Mr Richard Wilding and Mr Jonathan Charkham. Sir Derek Rayner, the Prime Minister's adviser on the elimination of waste, and leaders of the Civil Service unions, will be called to give evidence later.

The committee's main interests are progress in the reduction of the size and cost of the Civil Service, and the appointment of retired civil servants to posts in business and banking. They will also examine the scrutiny programmes being conducted on a departmental basis by Sir Derek Rayner.

The committee is chaired by Mr Edward du Cann, Conservative MP for Taunton, and served by a full-time clerk, Mr David Hubbard, a former deputy secretary at the Department of Trade. The appointment of a number of part-time advisers has begun: the first to be announced are Dr Alan Budd, of the London Business School, and Mr John Kay, of the Institute of Fiscal Studies.



Nicola Styles, aged five, outside Parliament yesterday in protest over the proposed closure of Shealbury School, Stevenage, Hertfordshire.

## Energy plans 'must be disclosed'

By Our Planning Reporter

The Government must "come clean" about its energy proposals, Mr Robin Grove-White, assistant secretary of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, said yesterday.

"It says it expects to give the go-ahead for 10 nuclear power stations over the next 12 years," he pointed out. "But its own energy forecasts suggest the total will be as high as 20."

"These are huge and intrusive developments. They will all require sites, rural sites, and Mr Grove-White, who was addressing a conference in London on energy and the environment, organized by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and the Professional Institutions Council for Conservation, observed that energy strategy would have an increasing impact on the environment. New coal mines, gasification plants, upland storage schemes and fast breeder reactors would make dramatic inroads into the countryside.

"But where in rural England will they go?" he asked. "Which estuaries and river banks will be spoilt? Across which landscapes will the pylons march? Where can so many huge power stations with their power lines and cooling towers be sited?"

"The days are past when such matters could be treated

as a mere afterthought to the making of energy policy," he continued. "We have a right to know the full environmental implications."

Coincidentally *The Architects' Journal* devotes more than two thirds of this week's issue to the same subject. It points out that a report last year by the multi-institutional Watt Committee on Energy suggested that as many as 200 nuclear power stations might be required by the year 2025.

The journal includes a map of Britain and a panel of dots representing the supposedly required power stations. "Where," it asks, "would you put them?"

## Street cleaners may strike if housewives clear litter

From Arthur Osman

A proposal by 15 housewives in Birmingham to sweep litter once a week in their locality was met by a threat of industrial action yesterday.

The women, from the suburb of Edingford, said the pilot scheme would last two months and they hoped more people in other suburbs would follow their example. They had been promised equipment such as brooms, shovels and sacks by the city authority which also said it would take away the collected rubbish.

But Mr Barry Shutelesworth, regional secretary of the National Union of Public Employees, said he had spoken to other unions which between them represented 20,000 manual workers employed by the authority and "if they do any this it would be met by very strong action."

He said the plan was tantamount to taking the bread from

people who needed work and earlier this month he said the city had declared 300 redundancy in the cleaning department. "This will almost certainly lead to industrial action if the city is handing out its equipment to non-employees."

Mrs Margaret Morris, of Orphanage Road, Edingford, whose idea the project was, said: "We are not trying to take anyone's job away. We just want to do this on Sunday. There is more litter than men to clean it up."

"I am determined to carry on and if the city will not lend us equipment we shall have to raise money to buy some ourselves."

Mr Michael Thompson, cleaning manager for Birmingham, said that anyone with civic pride would welcome help from any quarter in cleaning the city, but if it is a regular basis the unions could claim justifiably that more street cleaners needed to be employed.

## New hydrofoil service

The Guernsey-based hydrofoil

operator, Condor, is to bring a 200-seater Westwind jet catamaran into service between the Channel Islands and St Malo early in May.

## Hunting dearer

Members of the Tangside

Hunt, north Tyneside, have been told that it will cost £3,000 to run the foxhunt this season and at least £10,000 next season, an increase of £3,500 in four years.

## Strike threat by fourth union in water industry

The fourth union in the

water industry last night officially threatened strike action if pay talks with the employers on Monday do not resolve its claim.

The executive committee of the National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers, which has about 1,500 workers in the industry, joined the General and Municipal Workers' Union, Transport and General Workers' Union and the National Union of Public Employees in the threat.

## Club angles for a site

An angling club has asked

for fish to be stocked in a large water-filled hole, which was to be the site of a Civil Service building. (The office project at Norcross, near Blackpool, was abandoned because of government cuts.)

## 'In Place of Strife'

The candid disclosures about

the secret places of British politics in Barbara Castle's Diaries have created great political excitement. Tomorrow *The Sunday Times* publishes a further extract from the diaries in which the story of the progress of her White Paper *In Place of Strife* reaches its climax. She tells how James Callaghan was ousted from the inner Cabinet; of the night she took the telephone off the hook to stop Harold Wilson getting through; and what happened when he angrily challenged Hugh Scanlon and Jack Jones as to who governed Britain.

## Boat lost in 'off the scale' wind

From Ronald Faux

Buckie When the fishing vessel Ocean Monarch was lost with all hands south of Shetland early on December 15, the weather was wild, the seas mountainous and the wind force "off the scale," it was stated at an inquiry at Buckie, Grampian, yesterday.

The investigation into the Ocean Monarch's disappearance is continuing, but the formal inquiry held at Buckie, a fishing port, into the deaths of the seven crew found that they were lost at sea, supposed killed or drowned as a result of the loss of the vessel.

Those who died were Gordon Taylor, aged 29, skipper of Buckie, married with two children; John Reid, aged 32, mate of Buckie, married with two children; Walter Thain, aged 37, engineer, married, with two children; John Clark, aged 31, deckhand, of Cullen, married, with three children; Barrow Sudding, aged 23, of Buckie, single; Alan Sutherland, aged 17, deckhand, of Cullen, single; William Coull, aged 33, deckhand, of Buckie, married with one son.

Buckie is a town still stunned by mourning for the 16 local men in three fishing boats which have gone down over the past six months.

Mr William More, skipper of the *Defiance*, said that on December 13 his vessel left Peterhead with the *Ocean Monarch* following. He spoke to

## Pensions shortfall will not be made good

By Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent

The Government has decided not to make good the shortfall in the November pensions increase which was caused by understating the increase in earnings last year. The decision, announced in a parliamentary written reply yesterday by Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, is bound to create a parliamentary dispute likely to delay further the Social Security Bill.

The Government has already lost two sessions of the committee stage of the Bill while Labour MPs made persistent and prolonged attempts to wrest a statement of intent on the shortfall. The amendment is likely to lead to similar tactics when the standing committee reconvenes on Tuesday.

The shortfall meant that pensions rose in November by 35p a week less for a single person and 50p a week less for a married couple than was necessary since the previous pensions increase. Under present legislation the Government is required to review pensions and other long-term benefits annually and increase them in line with the movement in either prices or

earnings, whichever is higher. Clause 1 of the Bill is intended to change the basis for increases to a prices-only link.

In his written reply yesterday Mr Jenkin said there was no legal obligation to make good the shortfall, which would cost an estimated extra £195m in a full year. The Government had complied fully with the statutory requirements when retirement pensions and other long-term benefits were raised in November 1979.

The "unbelievable row" when the committee stage resumes was promised last night by Mr Frank Field, Labour MP for Birkenhead. The Government had added £4,500m for tax concessions, but £4,305m from pensioners, he said.

"Mr Jenkin is right when he says there is no legal obligation, but there is a moral obligation," he said. "This decision shows how worthless was the Government's pledge that pensioners need not worry about breaking the link with earnings because they would make sure that pensioners would share in growing prosperity."

The shortfall had provided the Government with the first test of that pledge. They had failed it miserably.

## Windscale company 'is selfish'

From Our Correspondent

Whitehaven

British Nuclear Fuels was accused at the two lakes inquiry at Whitehaven, Cumbria, yesterday of looking after itself only and not being concerned with the water needs of other industries. The state-owned company which manages the Windscale nuclear plant came under attack from a representative of the north-west water authority.

British Nuclear Fuels wants to raise the level of West Water to satisfy the needs of the Windscale plant, while the water authority wants more water for industrial west Cumbria, and proposes raising the level of Ennerdale Water.

Mr Brian Alexander, an assistant resource planning director with the north-west water authority, said yesterday that British Nuclear Fuels was concerned with only its own needs. The water authority was looking after the needs of the whole of industrial west Cumbria.

Mr Lionel Read, QC, for the company, suggested that the authority had not examined all the alternatives open to it.

Mr Alexander said the authority did not see why it should "scratch around" for another alternative when Ennerdale Water would cope adequately with its demand. One of the virtues of the Ennerdale scheme was to provide storage water for an emergency.

The hearing continues next Tuesday.

## E Midlands pleased by TV contracts

By Kenneth Gosling

The East Midlands Forum of County Councils was celebrating yesterday the success of a twelve-month campaign to persuade the Independent Broadcasting Authority that the East Midlands should have separate treatment under the new commercial television franchises.

Although the forum considers that the East Midlands should have been treated as a separate contract area rather than as part of a new dual region, it is satisfied that the IBA has answered its claims in almost every other way.

The forum, which represents five county councils, was told privately about the proposal last October. It is studying the documents in detail and intends to seek clarification on points it considers to be unclear.

The IBA, for example, says it will look to a contractor to provide a minimum of four hours programming a week for the East Midlands alone in the initial period. The forum will question the definition of "initial period" since it fears that a minimum may become the standard.

It is, however, satisfied that the East Midlands will have more of its own news and current affairs.

## Stone sought for castle

Builders are seeking second-hand red Mansfield sandstone

to complete the restoration of the twelfth-century castle at Newark, Nottinghamshire, which is being delayed by a shortage of the stone.

## Mentally ill given priority pledge by minister

By John Roper

Health Services Correspondent

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, said in Worcester yesterday that even in times of economic constraint, the Government would maintain priority to services for the mentally ill and mentally handicapped.

Opening the Worcester mental illness development project, Mr Jenkin said that mental disorder was to get its share of National Health Service resources, unlike the more popular services, that would have to be deliberately planned and fostered. It was not just a matter of money, but of time, thought and care.

He said that the new pattern of services for the mentally ill meant the development of a range of services related to the needs of patients, from day centres to residential care, from institutions and into the community whenever possible.

Mental illness services should be seen as part of NHS district services, instead of as something part-centred on old, isolated mental hospitals.

A study group has been formed by the London Health Planning Consortium, set up in 1978 by the Department of Health, the University Grants Committee and the four Thames regional health authorities to explore health services and clinical teaching in London and to look at ways of improving the effectiveness of primary care services in the city.

The decision reflects growing concern about family doctor services in inner London. The group is inviting evidence from organizations and individual views which should be sent to the chairman, Professor Donald Acheson, Room 1922, Euston Tower, 286 Euston Road, London NW1 3ND.

## Newspaper publishers quit employers' group

By David Felton

Labour Reporter

T. Bailey Forman, publishers of the *Nottingham Evening Post*, which refused to reinstate 28 journalists dismissed during last winter's provincial newspaper strike, has left the Newspaper Society, the employers' organization.

Mr Christopher Pole-Carew, managing director of the company, said last night that the decision to leave the society had nothing to do with the strike or the dismissal of the journalists. Membership of the society was no longer of benefit to the company.

However, there was speculation in newspaper circles last night that if the company had not left voluntarily, the society may have been forced to rescind its membership because it was in breach of a no victimization clause, which was included in the agreement which ended the seven-week strike by the National Union of Journalists.

Mr Pole-Carew said the society's industrial relations policy was meaningless to his company as the *Nottingham Evening Post* used new technology more advanced than in any other newspaper office.

He was unrepentant about dismissing the 28 members of the NUJ who joined the strike.

"They preferred to stand out on picket lines, commuters instead of working, so they can do what someone else's payroll," Mr Pole-Carew said.

Mr Jacob Ecclestone, president of the NUJ, said last night: "It is a pity that the Newspaper Society did not have the courage to let him creep away."

Mr Kenneth Ashton, the union's general secretary, said: "We would have preferred that T. Bailey Forman had accepted their responsibilities and reinstated our sacked members. But given their continuing arrogance, the *Nottingham Evening Post*'s isolation in the industry is totally appropriate."

## A brighter Belfast proposed

From Christopher Thomas

Belfast

Steps to revitalize the deserted and forlorn city centre of Belfast at night have been recommended by a working party set up in 1978 by the Labour Government.

It will take a long time if left to the normal process of supply and demand the working party says in a report.

## It recommends that the city

council appoint an entertainment development officer to plan and coordinate revitalization work that should last about four years.

The 11-member group suggests better street lighting as a minimum essential requirement; shop proprietors being encouraged to put their lights on at 6.30pm; a lively city centre; and better public transport.

## NF chief fined £250 for contempt

Mr John Tyndall, who

announced his resignation this week as chairman of the National Front, was fined £250 by Mr Justice Mingo in the High Court yesterday for contempt of court.

He admitted disobeying a Court order banning him from harassing members of the Excalibur Centre and Refreshment Club or preventing them from entering the club premises on the third floor of the party's headquarters in Great Eastern Street, Hackney, east London.

The judge ordered Mr Tyndall to pay the fine within

14 days or go to prison for 28 days. Mr Tyndall was also ordered to pay the costs—officially estimated at £4,000—of the contempt proceedings brought against him by Mr Douglas Priest, the club chairman; Mr Richard Franklin, secretary; and Mr John Barnes, treasurer.

Accepting Mr Tyndall's apologies, which were given by Mr John Price, his counsel, the judge said if he had not apologized he would have been committed to prison. He also accepted Mr Tyndall's undertaking not to disobey the order in future.

## Another house in Wales is set on fire

Another unoccupied house in

Wales was found burning yesterday. It was the thirteenth fire or arson attempt since the campaign against holiday homes began six weeks ago.

The 200-year-old farmhouse at Penrhynedd, Gwynedd, had been bought recently by a local farmer who was to renovate it and live there with his wife and two young children.

A window had been broken and hay set alight beneath stairs. Serious damage was caused. The alarm was raised by the farmer, Mr Brian Jones, aged 37, who noticed smoke.

"His wife, Mrs Barbara Jones, aged 30, who is sorry about the percentage of houses being bought here all the year round. I cannot see why anyone should set fire to a house owned by a Welshman."

## Irish couples can be taxed singly

From Our Correspondent

Dublin

The Government of the Republic of Ireland is facing an immense taxation difficulty after the decision of the Supreme Court in Dublin yesterday that married working couples can be taxed as individuals.

The decision, which upheld an earlier ruling by the High Court, could cost the Irish exchequer between £60m and £80m annually. Nearly 100,000 couples are expected to be affected.

The necessity to revise, downward, the income-tax of married couples, comes at a time when the Government is facing increasing pressure to reduce the tax burden on the PAYE sector of the working community.

Earlier this week nearly 750,000 people brought much of the country to a halt when they joined protests for a

reform of the tax system under which the top rate of 60 per cent is reached on a taxable income of £6,600 a year.

Under yesterday's ruling a childless, married couple with a combined income of £11,500 a year will save about £17 a week in tax.

The court upheld the contention that the present system, whereby the incomes of married couples are assessed jointly, was unconstitutional. There was an argument in Dublin yesterday as to whether tax rebates would be granted retrospectively, at least from the date of the High Court decision.

The ruling comes after a two-year court action undertaken by Dublin teachers, Frank and Maura Murphy, both aged 28. They were sponsored by the Married Persons Tax Reform Association and maintained during the case that because they were married to one

another, rather than merely living together, they were unfairly treated by the Revenue Commissioners and were discriminated against.

One of the judges said yesterday that in the opinion of the court the Act in question was a breach of the pledge by the state to guard with special care the institution of marriage and protect it against attack.

Referring to the Murphys, he said that part of their income was assessed for tax at the rate of 60 per cent; if the plaintiffs were separately assessed the highest rate at which each would be assessed would be 35 per cent.

Mr Richie Ryan, former Irish Finance Minister, said that it would give him grey hairs to try and find £60m to £80m a year more. The tax burden would have to be shifted elsewhere. "The new minister has an appalling task," he added. "The state's finances are in a shocking mess."



## WEST EUROPE

## Outcry in France over teachers' pamphlet defending soft drugs

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Jan 25

After the dismantling of the "Front de libération de la culture" (FLC), the French teachers' union, which has been quiescent for a few years, is again causing widespread alarm among parents and teachers.

The facts are there and beyond dispute. Mme Monique Pelletier, the Minister for Family Affairs, told the Cabinet a few months ago that deaths from overdose had risen sharply in the past three years. Of 40,000 known drug addicts in France, 85 per cent are young people between the ages of 15 and 25.

The Minister of Education issued in October a solemn appeal to parents and teachers to cooperate with the police and the judicial authorities in tracking down drug peddlars, propagandists, and addicts.

It is against this background that a pamphlet distributed by some teachers at a couple of lycées in the Val de Marne department, south-east of Paris, in December, has provoked an uproar of national proportions and prompted sharp reactions by three members of the Government.

The Minister of Education on Wednesday called upon all educators to take an unequivocal stand against drugs. He said he would not hesitate to use all the weapons provided by law, and ordered an administrative inquiry at both lycées.

The Minister of Health said that the Minister of Education's office had taken up the matter, and if the facts were proven, sanctions would be taken.

The Minister of Justice said yesterday: "I do not think it is the role of educators to incite young people to take drugs, even soft ones, if these often lead to hard ones."

It all started, strangely enough, with the distribution at one of the incriminated lycées of a violent condemnation of drug addiction by the Communist youth movement.

The pamphlet, entitled "Struggle against drugs," said: "It is high time to state very loud how thoroughly Communists are opposed to drugs. . . . Drugs are synonymous not of happiness but of unhappiness, not of revolution but of resignation. . . . The great bourgeoisie has understood that the development of drugs consumption meant passive acceptance of its social order."

This broadside provoked the pamphlet which is widely incriminated as an apology and incitement to drug addiction by members of the Socialist-

dominated SGEN-CFDT teachers' union. "Education is a struggle, not moralizing," it suggested, that rather than attempt to combat drug addiction, a distinction should be made between hard and soft drugs. It noted that in Europe, the consumption of soft drugs was not a "natural social phenomenon", and that people were far more addicted to lethal drugs like tobacco, spirits, and tranquilizers.

It asked whether "a more discriminating, more enlightened approach, based on information of young people about all drugs, including the latter, and a liberalization of the sale of soft drugs under medical, not police, control, would not be a possible solution", to the power exercised by drug pushers and peddlars in the capitalist system.

L'Humanité, the Communist Party organ, described the pamphlet as a "hodge-podge of half truths" in which "Heroin, this dreadful evil, is put in a cupboard alongside anisette (the liqueur)".

Political antagonism underlies the controversy to some extent. The Communists have not been slow in using this new stick with which to beat the Socialists and their trade union allies who are gaining ground in the Val de Marne area.

The local branch of the union rallied to the side of the incriminated teachers, and even went so far as to encourage wider distribution of the controversial pamphlet. It argued that the teachers had done nothing other than raise a serious problem against which they came up every day.

Over and beyond the rather trivial political aspects of the controversy, the fact remains that drug addiction among young people is regarded by all concerned with education, government, educators and parents, as a serious new challenge to the health of the nation.

It is overwhelming majority reject the suggestion that start could be made in coming to grips with it by liberalizing the regulations on soft drugs.

If soft drugs are really ineffective why should medical control of their use be necessary? The Minister of Education asks today in an interview to Le Monde.

Dr Claude Olivenstein, one of the acknowledged French authorities on drug addiction, said recently that youths could be protected against drugs. But this must be discussed without inciting to a climate of hysteria.

## EEC butter sales to Russians defended

From Michael Hornsby, Brussels, Jan 25

Despite anger over the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and pressure from the United States for tougher trade sanctions against the Russians, the EEC may sell between 60,000 and 80,000 tonnes of surplus butter at cut-rate prices to the Soviet Union this year.

This was the estimate offered today by Mr Finn Olav Gundelach, the EEC Commissioner for Agriculture, at a press conference in West Berlin where he was attending the annual West German "Green Week" agricultural fair.

Mr Gundelach argued that this represented the "normal level" of butter sales to the Soviet Union and would be in line with the decision of EEC foreign ministers earlier this month that "traditional trade flows" with the Soviet Union should be maintained.

The Commission's figure is based on butter sales to the Soviet Union over the last three years, when the annual volume has varied between as little as 20,000 tonnes and as much as 120,000 tonnes.

British sources here said they considered the Commission's figure far too high. In their view butter sales to the Soviet Union should be held to no more than 35,000 tonnes, this being the average level of exports over the last six or seven years during some of which no butter was exported at all.

The question of what does constitute a "normal level" of butter sales to the Soviet Union will have to be thrashed out at meetings of officials from member states and the Commission over the coming weeks.

As an important surplus dairy producer, France is certain to press for the maximum possible volume of butter exports. The cost of subsidizing these exports falls mainly on Britain, the biggest net contributor to the EEC budget.

In the meantime, the Commission will continue its ban on the pre-fixing of export subsidies for butter intended for the Soviet Union and other East European countries, which has reduced sales to zero.

When agreement has been reached on the amount of butter that may be sold to the Russians, a new tendering procedure will be introduced which will enable the Commission to monitor the volume of any exports.

Mr Gundelach also disclosed in Berlin that the EEC will probably export between 200,000 and 300,000 tonnes of barley to the Soviet Union later this year. At present all cereals exports to the Soviet Union are suspended.

Barley exports of this size would be in line with trade in previous years and with the EEC's commitment not to export its surplus to fill the gap left in Russian supplies by the American embargo on 17 million tonnes of feed grain.

In Brussels, Mr Luther Hodges, the United States Deputy Secretary for Commerce, said after talks with EEC officials that America would be providing European allies precise details, within two to five weeks, of the action it would like to see them take to restrict exports of high technology to the Soviet Union.

## OVERSEAS



A determined band of Afghan tribesmen, armed with assorted weapons, ready for action against the Soviet-backed regime.

## Kabul uses Tarakki death to justify coup

From Ian Murray, Kabul, Jan 25

Details of the way in which former President Nur Muhammad Tarakki is supposed to have died are being published. This is part of the new Afghan regime's campaign to discredit President Hafizullah Amin, who was toppled from power at the time of the Soviet invasion of the country last month.

The campaign seems to be aimed at convincing everyone in Afghanistan that Mr Amin was a murderer, a "hanger-on" intent on destroying the people's revolution and imposing a Muslim republic with the help of "imperialist American" aid.

At the same time Mr Tarakki is being consistently put forward as a martyr, who was disposed of because he represented a threat to these "imperialist" designs.

The details of his death come from what is said to be a tape recording of a confession made by Lieutenant Muhammad Iqbal, head of the patrol group of the People's House Guards, who participated in the execution because he "was forced by Amin and his henchmen to betray the people of Afghanistan by killing Tarakki, instigated by imperialism, Imperial-

ism may still try to defend Amin but there is no room left for this."

According to the published confession the lieutenant's role was to arrange the digging of Mr Tarakki's grave and to requisition metal sheets from a signwriters to cover the grave over.

Then he and two other officers had been ordered to tie up Mr Tarakki, lay him on a bed and hold him down while a cushion was pressed over his face to smother him.

"We can inform the people of Afghanistan and the working people of the whole world that we as sons of the people were forced to do this. Whatever we are ordered by the party we will carry out. In order to hide his sins from the people of Afghanistan Amin resorted to this action, so he imposed this on us."

The confessions are continuing to receive much prominence in papers and in radio news bulletins, showing that the new regime is still far from confident about the situation it can rely on from the people.

There seems little doubt by now that under Mr Amin many atrocities were committed, but significantly there seems little joy on the part of the people

in having got rid of such a tyrant.

It seems impossible to find any other than existing Government officials who have anything but a bad word to say for the Russians. Taxi drivers refuse to stop outside the Soviet Embassy if asked to call there, insisting that passengers walk a hundred yards or so to the well-protected building.

Spawns of anything happening outside Kabul is hard to discover and all foreigners are being increasingly restricted inside the capital. Press passes are once again being issued, but journalists are being told that they can claim to travel in conducted groups.

So far only one journalist appears to have succeeded in getting through all the Soviet road blocks on the road north through the Salang Pass. A Spaniard who grew his beard for three days and, with his swarthy skin, was able to escape detection at the numerous checks.

The trip took him two days and during that time on the road he saw one ambush and two Afghan attacks on what seemed to be rebel positions some distance from the road. Near Mazar-i-Sharif he saw hundreds of Soviet tanks drawn up in the fields. In the mountains

of the Salang Pass he noticed that several Russian lorries had apparently skidded on the ice and plunged down the mountainside.

Keeping the pass open is proving a tough job for the Soviet Army, with snipers and ambushes common. The Russians are patrolling the many tunnels constantly to protect them from being bombed and so far the road, which is in constant heavy use, is being kept open.

For the moment the fighting seems to have settled into the pattern of sniping and ambushes which is upsetting the Russians even though they seem to be quite able to deal with it.

The test will come when the snows melt making it possible for the Soviet Army to exploit its superior numbers and weaponry to the full in attacks to clear the rebels from their mountain strongholds.

If the Russians are to mount a full scale attack, however, they will need to be able to count on much more support from the people of Afghanistan than they can claim at the moment. The campaign to denounce Mr Amin is part of the attempt to make the people grateful to the Russians for freeing them from him.

## Dr Sakharov not to face criminal charges

Moscow, Jan 25.—Dr Andrei Sakharov, Russia's leading human rights activist, who was sent into internal exile in Gorkiy on Tuesday, is not facing criminal charges, a high-ranking Soviet official said today.

Mr Vitali Kobyshev, the head of the American section at the international department of the Communist Party's Central Committee, also said that Dr Sakharov would be free to continue his scientific work. But he will have less access to top level academic and research materials in Gorkiy.

"Proceeding from humane notions and taking into account his previous merits, he will not be charged," Mr Kobyshev said. Since he is an academician, he will be able to continue his work.

Dr Sakharov, while stripped of his state awards on Tuesday, remains a member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences.

On Wednesday, the Government newspaper *Izvestia* branded Dr Sakharov as a traitor and accused him of treason. The newspaper left it unclear in its denunciation of the dissident leader whether he would face criminal charges in addition to exile.

In a further elaboration Mr Valentin Falin, an aide of President Brezhnev's, has told the Moscow correspondent for the West German news magazine *Stern* that the Nobel peace prize winning scientist had refused to sign a statement of support for human rights activities. He hinted that Dr Sakharov, who helped to develop the Soviet atom bomb, was sent into exile for passing on classified information to Westerners.

Meanwhile about 100 Soviet dissidents have appealed to the Pope and Christians throughout the world to intervene for the release from jail of two Russian Orthodox priests.

The appeal, which reached foreign correspondents today, referred to Father Dmitry Dudko, arrested earlier this month after years of harassment by the authorities, and Father Gleb Yakulin, a dissident priest who heads the unofficial "Christian Committee for the Defence of Believers' Rights".

Among the signatories to the appeal were Dr Igor Shafarevich, professor of mathematics at Moscow University, and Mr Viktor Kapitschuk, an engineer. Both are leading figures in the dissident campaign against alleged religious repression in the Soviet Union.—AP, UPI and Reuter.

Norwegian award: Dr Sakharov has been awarded the Norwegian prize Fritt Ord (free word), given for outstanding work to secure the right to free speech and welfare. It was announced in Oslo today. He was the first foreigner to be presented with the award, which is worth 60,000 kroner (£5,500). Mr Jens Henrik Nordlie, the chairman of the board of Fritt Ord, said in his announcement:

"Polish solidarity: Warsaw dissidents declared their solidarity with Dr Sakharov today. 'We join the protest of all men of good will in the world against Sakharov's banishment. . . . We are ready to join any international initiative to free him,' a statement from the Committee for Social Self-Defence said in Warsaw.—AP.

International tribunal: Dr Mikhail Shtrern, an exiled Soviet physician living in the Netherlands, today announced plans to set up an international Sakharov tribunal (our Amsterdam Correspondent writes).

According to Dr Shtrern's plans, the Sakharov tribunal will be held in the form of a scientific conference to demonstrate the importance of Dr Sakharov's work to the world.

It is not yet known who will participate but leading scientists, politicians, Russian dissidents living in the West, and Nobel prize-winners have been invited.

## New Belgian coalition wins approval for its policy

Brussels, Jan 25.—The new coalition Government of Mr Wilfried Martens, the Belgian Prime Minister, won a confidence vote in Parliament last night.

Deputies voted 119 to 52 with eight absences in favour of his policy statement made after he reshuffled his centre-left coalition, reduced from five to four parties.

The main change in the

## Lisbon revokes treaty with Soviet Union

From Our Correspondent, Lisbon, Jan 25

The Portuguese Government has introduced restrictions on official visits and political contacts between Portugal and the Soviet Union. Dr Diego Freitas, Jo Amalal, the Foreign Affairs Minister, said on January 15 that Portugal's relations with the Soviet Union would be revised.

The Government also announced yesterday that Portugal is to revoke a treaty of cultural and scientific cooperation with the Soviet Union while a projected fishing agreement will not now be signed.

Although the Government's attitude to the Soviet Union seems to have public approval, it has been pointed out that the measures considered might be a two-edged sword. The Soviet Union is the main buyer from the Portuguese shoe industry, and a large ship building order has been placed here by the Russians.

Little has leaked out about it. Not even the menu that great standby of reporters when nothing else is available—was disclosed. Mr Chirac was tipped when he left the palace at his visit.

But it appears that after the meal, and somewhat to Mr Chirac's surprise, he and the President left their wives together and were closeted alone for more than an hour. They obviously did not waste much time talking about the weather. Whatever they discussed, and both agreed not to disclose anything about it, the mere fact of their meeting is politically significant.

True to his image as a man open to dialogue and compromise, President Giscard has everything to gain in the public's eyes by holding out an olive branch to his Gaullist rival—especially when serious international tension makes internal political rivalries seem even more irrelevant to the man in the street than usual.

**Sales of cognac set a record**

Paris, Jan 25.—Cognac sales last year rose by 15 million bottles to a record of more than 151 million, the Cognac Committee announced today. The latest harvest of white wine used for cognac was a record

## Speculation over Gaullist ex-Premier's Elysée visit

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris, Jan 25

Mr Jacques Chirac, leader of the Gaullist party and Mayor of Paris, was entertained yesterday at the Elysée Palace by President Giscard d'Estaing, and the news sent all Paris buzzing with speculation.

The invitation was announced as a strictly private one—Chirac was not being received as his party's leader or as Mayor. But this is a country where politics have been dominated for the past four years by the personal antagonism between the President and his former Minister and his lunchtime guest.

Today was the first time the two men had met since November, 1978, when the Mayor of Paris called to talk about his new plan for developing Les Halles, the site of the former central markets. More important, it was the first real political conversation since the Gaullist leader resigned from the office of Prime Minister in August, 1976.

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## Delay in decisions about Olympic Games boycott

From Our Correspondent, Amsterdam, Jan 25

The Dutch Government has officially asked the National Olympic Committee not to send a team to the Olympic Games in Moscow. The committee has said it will consider the request but will not make a decision until the United States Olympic committee has made up its mind.

The Soviet decision to exile Dr Andrei Sakharov tipped the Dutch political scales in favour of a boycott. Previously political opinion in the Netherlands favoured participation in the games to give the West an opportunity to raise the issue of human rights in Moscow.

Bonn: Talks lasting 90 minutes took place today between Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister and Mr Vladimir Semenov, the Soviet Ambassador. Herr Genscher said the Russians should withdraw from Afghanistan and "create the right atmosphere" for all nations to take part in the Games.

Contra: Australian Olympic officials have adopted a "wait and see" attitude on the Government's call for a boycott and decided to seek the views of other national Olympic committees.

Peking: China will boycott the Moscow Olympics if most of the other participating countries do the same, said a senior official, quoted by the New China news agency.

Peking has called for stern measures in response to the Soviet action in Afghanistan, which shares a short border with China. But a boycott would be a blow to Chinese athletes Abidjan, Ivory Coast: Mr Abraham Ordia, president of the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa, has been quoted as saying that Africa would not shun the Moscow Olympics. According to the Ghanaian press Mr Ordia said: "Africa will be there in full force. We will not boycott the games."

Paris: Jean-Paul Sartre, the philosopher, today called for a boycott of the Games. Mr Sartre, now half-blind and ailing, made a rare public statement, calling the boycott "a necessary sanction against the Soviet Union for its action against the small country already under its influence."—Reuter and UP.

## Hijackers seek flight from Cuba to Iran

Atlanta, Georgia, Jan 25.—Two hijackers believed to be armed and claiming to be Black Muslims hijacked a Delta Airlines jet carrying 65 people to Cuba early today. The aircraft, flying from Atlanta to New York, was forced to fly to Havana where the hijackers demanded another airliner to take them to Iran.

A State Department spokesman in Washington that the hijackers asked the Cuban authorities to provide them with an aircraft to Tehran, but the Cubans refused. Delta said the hijacked airliner, a wide-bodied Lockheed L 1011, was not equipped to cross the ocean.

There were no reports of injuries. The only person allowed off was a diabetic passenger who was taken to a Havana hospital.

Nearly nine hours after the airliner landed at Havana airport an air traffic control supervisor there said on the telephone that the hijackers were negotiating for a second American aircraft to be flown in to take them to Iran.—AP.

## Bani-Sadr leads in Iran's presidential poll

Tehran, Jan 25.—Mr Abolhassan Bani-Sadr, the Finance Minister, took an early lead in Iran's first presidential election today, according to unofficial estimates.

He was polling up to 80 per cent of the vote in some areas of Tehran, according to electoral officials interviewed by the official Pars news agency. Voters interviewed at random in the capital and in provincial towns indicated that Mr Bani-Sadr, a Member of the Revolutionary Council, was leading in most areas.

His nearest rivals, according to the unofficial estimates, were Mr Ahmad Medani, a former naval commander, and Mr Hassan Habibi, a Revolutionary Council spokesman.

One of the first to vote was Ayatollah Khomeini. Officials took a ballot box to his bedside at a Tehran hospital, where he is receiving treatment for a heart ailment.

A bulletin from the ayatollah's doctors said he had complained of chest pains for about 20 minutes this morning but had recovered after treatment.

Mr Bani-Sadr, who has been expelled because he had passed a large amount of money to the pro-Moscow Socialist Unity Party. Mr Sofinsky told a press conference today that he could not recall any incident that could have led anybody to suppose that he had passed funds to the party, or anything that could be construed as interfering in the domestic affairs of New Zealand.

He denied telling a press conference last night that the Soviet Union would retaliate against New Zealand.

Mr William Andersen, the president of the Socialist Unity Party, which claims to have only about 200 members, although some of them hold important trade union positions, has also denied that Mr Sofinsky handed money to the party.—Reuter.

**Churchill 'stayed too long'**

Continued from page 1

could gain credit in those countries by supporting nationalist movements.

"In this situation the two strongest Western powers must not appear before the world as a combination of forces to compel adherence to the status quo."

This was clearly an advance warning of the dispute between the two countries over the Anglo-French invasion of Egypt in 1956. Ironically, this occurred after Churchill had finally been persuaded to step down— a move which Eisenhower suggested in his 1953 memorandum could not come too soon.

"Much as I hold Winston in my personal affection and much as I admire him for his past

## Soviet ambassador denies expulsion charges

Wellington, Jan 25.—Mr Vsevolod Sofinsky, the Soviet Ambassador, who is being expelled from New Zealand, said today that allegations made against him by Mr Robert Muldoon, the Prime Minister, were more suited to a satirical or science fiction magazine.

Mr Sofinsky was given 72 hours to leave New Zealand last night when he was called to the office of Mr Brian Talboys, the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Mr Muldoon said the ambassador was being expelled because he had passed a large amount of money to the pro-Moscow Socialist Unity Party.

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Ice skating



Joy unconfined: Robin Cousins and his coach, Carlo Fassi, celebrate a European victory.

Lake Placid should offer Cousins a better platform

From John Hennessey  
Göteborg, Jan 25  
Robin Cousins woke up this morning with a feeling of surprise that he had won the European figure skating championship with such ease last night. There were, after all, so many other things he might have done had a pressing need been there.  
He feels that when the rest of the skating world, the rest of the public, see the television recording of his free programme they will wonder how only three triple jumps, two of them the toe loop, will have been sufficient to crown last year's winner, Jaan Rönkä, and last year's world champion, Vladimir Kovalev (Soviet Union).  
Cousins should have also performed the triple salchow and a third toe loop, but in the event he did not have time for them. In training, too, he has the toe loop (the salchow) but with too little certainty for them to be included in his public repertoire.  
He will certainly have to be a bigger demand during the Winter Olympics at Lake Placid when the world's best skaters, from Canada and the United States, will be on the ice. Cousins, pulling out every reasonable stop, as he said today, "When we add quantity to the quality there can be no holding us."  
Some think there is too much emphasis on the triples in modern skating. Cousins made it clear today that it was where the only doubt might lie in his skating. He could do the rest of his programme as near perfectly as no matter in his sleep.

Hockey

Roaring weekend abroad with echoes at home

By Sydney Friedman  
While England's indoor hockey skills are being tested this weekend at The Hague, where they are playing in a charity tournament, the Lions, some roaring can be expected in the outdoor activity at home. The male begins looking for these players in the semi-final round of the county championship, sponsored by Rank Xerox.  
Middlesex, winners of the title in the 1977-78 season, travel to Brize Norton, near Caterham, in Oxfordshire, to take on the Royal Air Force. The RAF, underlined by their 1-0 defeat by Middlessex in the 1977-78 season, have brought back Draper, a sound full back who strikes the corners superbly. Other reinforcements include two from Devon, Davidson and Sutton, an Oxfordshire.  
Middlesex cannot field Thomson, who is away at The Hague, nor Martin, who is also playing indoors. Brookman is doubtful because of a back injury. But Owen in goal, Cattrell, Horst, Allister McGinnis and Wallace are available. Kurland will lead the attack with Intax probably assisting him on the right and Batchelor on the left.  
The Worcestershire team to play Essex at Southville includes McNamara, of Stourport, but he is not the leader of the band. Their party of 16 is led by Mellett, who has been at Worcester, and international player, and Ken Partridge, of Slough, to assist him in the forward line. They are well prepared for this match and are relying again on French to get the goals.  
Yorkshire, who entertain Devon at Hootley Cricket Club, sponsored by the Yorkshire Water Authority, are in good form, having beaten Lancashire 3-1 at Hightown last week. Rarely has Yardley not scored a goal for them and with Hughes to intercept him at half back, he should be a constant danger to Devon. But Devon, fielding a number of players from the Yorkshire Water Authority, including West, Underhill, Wisby and Harris, are well equipped.  
In today's London League nothing seems likely to disturb the security of Southgate and Slough now occupying first and second places in the premier division of the Essex League, sponsored by Morris Union. Westfield are within reach of the title. A victory over Colchester should be enough.

Latest European snow reports

Depth (cm)	Conditions	Runs to (5 pm)	Weather
100	Good	Good	Snow
120	Good	Good	Snow
150	Good	Good	Snow
180	Good	Good	Snow
200	Good	Good	Snow
220	Good	Good	Snow
240	Good	Good	Snow
260	Good	Good	Snow
280	Good	Good	Snow
300	Good	Good	Snow
320	Good	Good	Snow
340	Good	Good	Snow
360	Good	Good	Snow
380	Good	Good	Snow
400	Good	Good	Snow
420	Good	Good	Snow
440	Good	Good	Snow
460	Good	Good	Snow
480	Good	Good	Snow
500	Good	Good	Snow
520	Good	Good	Snow
540	Good	Good	Snow
560	Good	Good	Snow
580	Good	Good	Snow
600	Good	Good	Snow
620	Good	Good	Snow
640	Good	Good	Snow
660	Good	Good	Snow
680	Good	Good	Snow
700	Good	Good	Snow
720	Good	Good	Snow
740	Good	Good	Snow
760	Good	Good	Snow
780	Good	Good	Snow
800	Good	Good	Snow
820	Good	Good	Snow
840	Good	Good	Snow
860	Good	Good	Snow
880	Good	Good	Snow
900	Good	Good	Snow
920	Good	Good	Snow
940	Good	Good	Snow
960	Good	Good	Snow
980	Good	Good	Snow
1000	Good	Good	Snow

Racing

Exciting I'm a Driver can confirm status

By Michael Seely  
I'm a Driver is a confident selection to win the Mansion House Handicap at Doncaster today. This front-running two-mile race is one of the most exciting in the country. Last season he won five races, including the Buchanan Whisky Cup at Ascot where he headed out a hand-some beating to this year's Cheltenham Gold Cup favourite, Jack of Trumps.  
The gelding was successful in his first race this campaign at Sandown Park in November, when, according to Anne's Prince, I'm a Driver, "he was set back when soundly thrashed by Night Nurse in a repeat attempt to lift the Buchanan Gold Cup. However, he was not to be deterred on his return to Sandown and did not reappear until Caterick Bridge last Saturday when the nine-year-old gelding, now back to his best, I'm a Driver can enhance his claim to be considered the best of the current crop in the country with another fluent victory.  
In the William Hill Yorkshire Chase, Tony Dickinson's I'm a Driver, the 10-year-old, is not the force he was when proving too strong for Coalhill in the Mares Handicap at Newbury last winter, and the stable was disappointed when the gelding failed to beat Jack's Flutter at Caterick last weekend.  
However, Tommy Carmody was in the saddle when I'm a Driver, and when his chief market rival fell, Tommy Joe was left with too much ground to make up. Despite the lack of stable confidence Tommy Joe must go close. As Rubstick, the 1979 Grand National winner, may fall, I'm a Driver is short of a runner. He must represent the best each way bet. Twice a winner already this season, and with Philip Tuck back in the saddle, I'm a Driver will appreciate every yard of today's three and a quartet course.  
However, Doncaster is a course which always suits novices as the fences are soft and take little punishment. For this reason, the gelding is a strong contender for the recent second to Modesty Forbids in the Anthony Munday, Peter Cazelet Memorial Chase at Sandown.  
Kas will be carrying 13lb over weight, but his Sandown run revealed the extent of his improvement and the eight-year-old is given narrow preference over Tommy Joe and Jack.  
The affable gelding, packed with a live candidate for the Daily Express Triumph Hurdle, the Dickinson's fluent winner at Wetherby, Visconti, should be able to take full advantage of the 10lb weight he has been given. Arthur Stephenson's promising four-year-old, Tudor Folly, who has been successful in his last three races.  
Palace Dan and Skewway have obvious chances, and if Peter Sauerby's Caterick winner, Police Rate, can improve his jumping he could well be the main danger as the four-year-old has been heavily backed to take the big Cheltenham race. But Visconti remains the choice.  
Easterday is running both his Schweppes Gold Trophy candidates this afternoon. Silver Shadow goes in the Yorkshire Handicap Hurdle while the gelding, who made his Sandown conqueror, Golden Vow, and last Saturday's Kempton winner, Danish King, it might be worth taking a chance on the lightly-weighted Fairy King, who has been running over fences with considerable success.  
Visconti, the market leader for the season's toughest handicap, runs in the Killick

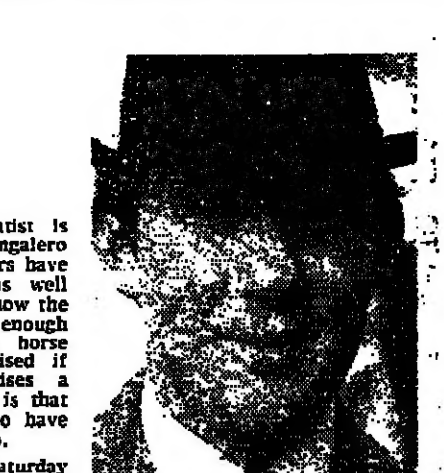


Tony Dickinson: hoping Tommy Joe can go close.

Hurdle at Ayr. Although Peter Player, who finished runner-up to Vascar at Wetherby, won his second subsequent race in succession at Doncaster yesterday, Vascar may not succeed in doing so much weight to Haighall who showed a fine turn of foot when scoring at Northampton. Sea Pigeon, who finished runner-up to the last two Champions Hurdles, Sea Pigeon is suffering from intermittent lameness and will have to miss the Epsom Handicap Hurdle at Leopardstown. All our efforts will now be concentrating on getting the old horse fit for his fourth attempt on the championship, he said.  
The champion jockey, John O'Neill, was in form at Ayr yesterday when landing a double on the gelding, who made his Sandown conqueror, Golden Vow, and last Saturday's Kempton winner, Danish King, it might be worth taking a chance on the lightly-weighted Fairy King, who has been running over fences with considerable success.  
Visconti, the market leader for the season's toughest handicap, runs in the Killick

Testing experience for Celtic Ryde

By Michael Phillips  
Racing Correspondent  
There will be stewards' inspections at Cheltenham and Windsor this morning. Racing could have been taken place on a course as well drained as Cheltenham is now the ground may not be soft enough for Fulke Walwyn's big horse and I will not be surprised if Zongolero himself surprises a few others. What is clear is that Governor's Last appears to have the measure of Teplino.  
At Kempton Park last Saturday Governor's Last beat Teplino by 10 lengths and has been backed by Teplino's stable companion Bachelor's Hall is best ignored until he shows signs of staying a recovery. In the event of Teplino's return to the fifth race at Doncaster, which is the intention, the Tote double steeplechase should develop into an enthralling race and one which Zongolero's trainer, Dicky Henderson, is hopeful of winning with Ruff Nelson, who ran away with the Kilk and Kilk steeplechase and the SGB steeplechase at Ascot towards the end of last year.  
Ruff Nelson was due to revisit Ascot 15 days ago but a bruising foot put paid to that plan. However he is right again now. If Ruff Nelson is better than just an ordinary handicapper as Henderson believes he must beat Jack Madness and Roller Coaster on these terms. Jack Madness had the weight when he won three races in a row before coming to grief in the Welsh Grand National. The greater handicap at Doncaster should come from Roller Coaster, who has looked a better horse since Fred Winter increased the weight at the end of the year and a half to three miles.  
Apparently Peter Cundell will not hear of Celtic Ryde being beaten in the Tote treble hurdle



Cundell: opposing him with beginner is act of folly.

and on all those forms he is probably right. Indeed, some will even go as far as to say that to oppose him with a beginner is nothing less than an act of folly.  
However, without wishing to take a chance with Ruff Nelson, who has impressed me enormously this season, he has already won over today's course and distance and this confrontation should tell us for once and for all whether his owner, Derek Wisbey, is being realistic in entering him for the Welsh Grand National. On the three occasions I have seen Ruff Nelson race this season his jumping has been as quick as lightning.  
The first and last races both of which are of the type of the combe Novices Hurdle could provide Peter Scudamore with the opportunity to land a double for Fred Rims (as Born to Reason (12.30) and Swashbuckling (3.15)).

Cheltenham programme

1.00 TOTE JACKPOT CHASE (Handicap: £2,986: 24m)	2.10 TOTE TREBLE HURDLE (54,331: 24m)
2.00 TOTE WINDSOR CHASE (Handicap: £1,162: 2m)	3.00 WILLIAM HILL BREWERS' HURDLE (4-y-o: £3,319: 2m)
3.00 TOTE WINDSOR CHASE (Handicap: £1,162: 2m)	4.00 BUTTERS' HURDLE (Handicap: £1,347: 21m)
4.00 TOTE WINDSOR CHASE (Handicap: £1,162: 2m)	5.00 WINDSOR CHASE (Handicap: £1,162: 2m)
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Doncaster programme

30 YORKSHIRE HURDLE (Handicap: £2,211: 2m)	
0-01-03	Mayhem (N. Metcalf), S. Cramshaw, 7-13-9
0-01-21	Silver Shadow (D. J. Selham), M. J. M. Straker, 8-1-0
0-01-23	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-24	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-25	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-26	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-27	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-28	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-29	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-30	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-31	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-32	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-33	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-34	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-35	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-36	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-37	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-38	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-39	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-40	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-41	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-42	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-43	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-44	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-45	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-46	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-47	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-48	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-49	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-50	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-51	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-52	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-53	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-54	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-55	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-56	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-57	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-58	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-59	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-60	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-61	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-62	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-63	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-64	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-65	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-66	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-67	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-68	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-69	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-70	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-71	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-72	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-73	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-74	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-75	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-76	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-77	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-78	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-79	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-80	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-81	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-82	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-83	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-84	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-85	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-86	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-87	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-88	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-89	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-90	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-91	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-92	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-93	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-94	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-95	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-96	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-97	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-98	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-01-99	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0-02-00	Golden View (R. Morris), R. Harter, 8-1-3
0 MANSION HOUSE CHASE (Handicap: £5,013: 2m)	
0-02-01	Mayhem (N. Metcalf), S. Cramshaw, 7-13-9
0-02-02	Mayhem (N. Metcalf), S. Cramshaw, 7-13-9
0-02-03	Mayhem (N. Metcalf), S. Cramshaw, 7-13-9
0-02-04	Mayhem (N. Metcalf), S. Cramshaw, 7-13-9
0-02-05	Mayhem (N. Metcalf), S. Cramshaw, 7-13-9
0-02-06	Mayhem (N. Metcalf), S. Cramshaw, 7-13-9
0-02-07	Mayhem (N. Metcalf), S. Cramshaw, 7-13-9
0-02-08	Mayhem (N. Metcalf), S. Cramshaw, 7-13-9
0-02-09	Mayhem (N. Metcalf), S. Cramshaw, 7-13-9
0-02-10	Mayhem (N. Metcalf), S. Cramshaw, 7-13-9
0-02-11	Mayhem (N. Metcalf), S. Cramshaw, 7-13-9
0-02-12	Mayhem (N. Metcalf), S. Cramshaw, 7-13-9
0-02-13	Mayhem (N. Metcalf), S. Cramshaw, 7-13-9
0-02-14	Mayhem (N. Metcalf), S. Cramshaw, 7-13-9
0-02-15	Mayhem (N. Metcalf), S. Cramshaw, 7-13-9
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## Saturday Review

## Tea with Mrs Bittell

by V. S. Pritchett

She liked to say it was "inconvenient" on the general ground that a lady should appear to complain beautifully when doing a kindness to someone outside her own class; lately she had been keeping an afternoon for a rather "quaint" person, a young man called Sidney, one of a red-jacketed ballet who hopped about at the busy tea counter in Murgatroyd and Foor's. He often chatted with her to annoy the foreign tourists who pushed and shouted at his counter. She discovered that he came on Sundays to her own church. Such a lonely person he was, sitting in his raincoat among the furs and black suits and in such a sad situation: his father had been in the hospital for years now—a coal miner—he had that dreadful thing miners get. It was so good that the young man came to church with a friend, another young man from the tea counter, and walking up from her snoot during the service, she often frowned with pleasure. She would say to her theatrical sister, "The younger generation are hungry for faith." The second young man stopped coming after a month or two, and only Sidney was left. She astounded him by asking him to tea.

Mrs Bittell was sitting in her flat in the expensive block nearly opposite the church among the wrongs and relics of her 70 years, when Sidney first came.

"Deliveries round the corner, second door", the doorman said.

"I'm a friend of Mrs Bittell's", said Sidney.

The doorman's chestload of medals flashed. "Why didn't you say you were a friend?" he said, looking Sidney up and down. "Seventh floor."

"A very disagreeable man", said Mrs Bittell when Sidney told her this, his wounded chin raised. She was a puddingy woman, reposing on a big sleepy belly; her hair was white and she had innocent blue eyes. She wore as usual, a loosely knitted pink jersey, low in the neck, a feather-mixture skirt, flat-beeled shoes, and was very short. Her family had been army people and at first she thought Sidney rather civilian in a disappointing way when he was not wearing the red jacket he wore in the shop, as she led him across the wide old-fashioned panelled hall of her flat into the full light of her large drawing room, which, in addition to her furniture and pictures, owned a large part of London sky where the clouds prospered: one looked down on the tops of three embassies and across to the creamy stucco of a long square.

Sidney sat looking at the distances between her sofas, her satiny chairs and other fine things. She remembered he had been so startled when she invited him to tea that he must be quite outside the concept of "invitations". Indeed, he had gone first of all to one of the large windows and searched the rooftops until he found the building where he and his family distantly lived. It was a high-rise block, a mile away, bowling like cats, he told her, with the tenants' radios and television sets and children.

"We don't have anything to do with the neighbours", he said complacently. "Talk to the people next door, next thing they unscrew your front door or saw it off when you go out, and nick the TV."

He turned his head slowly to Mrs Bittell. He was a slow-talking young man, nearly handsome in a doleful way, and Mrs Bittell liked this; she was slow and melancholy herself. He gave a droll laugh when he spoke of doors being sawn off and took a mild pride in the fact.

He also added something about the nearest roofs. "I can't stand slates", he said. "Slates is killing my father. The mine did it."

Mrs Bittell murmured in her social way that, oh dear, she thought he had been a coal miner.

"No", he said. "Slates."

He spoke in short sentences between disconcerting pauses. "Dad took me down when I left school."

"You workd there?" said Mrs Bittell.

"No", he said fastidiously. "Slates mines are cold. I don't like the cold."

There was a long pause.

"The deeper you go, the colder it gets", he said.

Mrs Bittell said her sister Dolly had had the same impression of the catacombs outside Rome, even though wearing a coat.

"I've heard of them", he said.

From his account of the mine it seemed to her that he was describing the block of flats in which he was sitting with her, but upside down, under the earth. Yet the mine also seemed like a buried church with aisles, galleries and side chapels, but in darkness and shaken by the noise of drilling holes for the sticks of dynamite and by the explosions in which the echoes pealed from cavern to cavern. The men worked with a stump of lighted candle on the peaks of their caps.

"Surely, Sidney, that is very dangerous. I've been told," said Mrs Bittell. "Not lamps?"

"No gas in the slate mines", he said. But Sidney fell into a state of meditation. "Splinters", he said. "A splinter drops from the roof and goes clean through your skull. You have to wear a helmet. Dad never wore a helmet."

"Oh dear, how thoughtless," said Mrs Bittell.

"No. A splinter never got him."

Sidney had a taste for horrors which he displayed as part of his family's limited capital. "The dust got him", said Sidney. "He wouldn't wear a mask."

"So I went to work in 'the grocer'."

Mrs Bittell was offering him a second cup of tea from her silver teapot. She held the cup above the slop basin.

"I forget, d'you like to keep your remains?"

"It's okay, Mrs Bittell", he said.

She was trying to think of a tactful way of saying the accent was on the second syllable of her name.

After that, talk became much easier. His long face still mooned but he warmed, although they got at cross purposes when she thought he was talking about the church when he was talking about the shop. He said he enjoyed the smell of furs, scent—they were like the smell of provisions. He looked at her piano and said, "Do you play it?"

Mrs Bittell had a wide peaceful white forehead with fine lines on it, her eyes were delicately childlike and her voice was graceful, but now the peacefulness vanished. Her face became square and stubborn, and because his pauses were so long she was tempted to fill them with troubles and horrors of her own; her late husband's atrocious behavior—he had once hit her with a bedside lamp—the selfishness of her daughters, who had made such "hopeless" marriages; the suspicions of her trustees, her income not a quarter of what it used to be; the wicked rise of taxes. Her wrongs settled like a migraine in fortified lumps on her forehead. But she did say to Sidney when he mentioned her piano that once one has got used to the big wrongs of life, little ones wake up, with their mean little teeth.

There had been a new wrong in her life in the past few months. The Misses Pattison on the floor below, she told him, the judge on the floor above, a Scottish "banker person", the general across the landing, had complained about her playing the piano. Several tenants had sent notes protesting: the landlord and even a solicitor had been dragged in to remind her of Clause 15 in her agreement about the hours when the playing of musical instruments was permitted. She had stonewalled, argued and evaded, tried tears, saying they were depriving an old lady of the only pleasure she had left in life. But she had had to give in: she was allowed to play between two and four in the afternoon. Even the doorman had turned against her. She supposed, she said, Sidney had seen in the entrance hall to the flats, the board with a sliding slot indicating whether tenants were "in" or "out". She was sure, she told Sidney, that the doorman changed her slot to "out" when she was "in", and to "in" when she was "out".

Sidney came to life when she said this; he exclaimed that the slot said "Out" when he had arrived. Mrs Bittell had always loved a suspicion and she was impressed to find someone who shared one with her.

Before Sidney came to tea, on all his visits—Wednesday being his day off—Mrs Bittell sat at her piano, a little distant from it because of her bold stomach, making one more attempt at a bit of Debussy. The notes came slowly from her fingers, for she was not one to vary her pace through life, and with occasional vehemence when she was uncertain.

Biting her lips, she tried a little Chopin, but that went too fast, so she moved at last to one of those Hebridean songs she had known since she was a girl of fourteen. Now the fine lines on her forehead cleared and softened, her look became faraway and serene, her eyes became heavenly and she felt herself to be gliding like a lonely bird over the rocky Atlantic shore at Grouse, her grandmother's great house. She was back in her childhood, keeping her father's boat straight in the sea-loch as he stood up and cast his line. She remembered chiefly his moustache like a burr. As the song began to fall away to its end she ventured to sing faintly, her voice coming out strong with longing as she lingered over the last line:

Sad am I without thee!  
Who was "thee"? Certainly not her father with his shout of "Keep your ears straight, girl"; certainly not her husband, who had helped himself to her money for years and left her contemptuously and gone to live only a mile away across the Park to play bridge with his military friends, and die. Certainly not a lover, though she had once thought the best man at her wedding rather attractive. Not the baby she had lost, or the daughters, who had made such unsuitable marriages. Sometimes she thought of "thee" as a girl—the self that had mysteriously slipped away when she was rushed into her marriage.

The buzzer sounded at the door. "Thee", of course, was not Sidney.

He took off his raincoat, folded it carefully and put it on the chest in the dim hall. They were on closer terms now.

"I heard you playing when I was coming up in the lift", he said.

"Oh dear!" she said.

"Not to worry, Mrs Bittell. They can't touch you. It's five to four: you've got another five minutes."

And he dawdled to allow her to dash back and get the last ounce of her rights.

He was at ease in the room now.

"Now tell me, how is your father today?" she said.

"The same", he said. "Round at the hospital. He goes three days a week. The doctors think the world of him; he's very popular." He added lazily, "X-rays. He must have had a hundred."

"The family depends on you", she said.

"Oh no", he said. "There was the sickness benefit; the pension; the grant; he's an important case." Sidney seemed to regard the illness as a profession, an investment.

"What a worry for your mother—but you have a sister, haven't you? How old is she? Has she got a job?"

Sidney looked wounded at the suggestion. He was careful to let the peculiarity of his family sink in. "Seventeen", he said. "She sits on the sofa, sucking her thumb, like a baby, and looking at television. She's Mother's pet. They all sit looking at it. Dad too", he said.

This pleased him as he sat thinking about it and he laughed. "Mother goes out", he said, "and always comes back with a special offer she sees on the commercials or something from Binge."

Sidney offered this information in a bemused way. Suddenly he woke up out of his own life and asked, "Who is that gentleman over there?"

She was relieved to see he was looking at one of three portraits on the wall.

"Oh", she said solemnly. "I thought you meant someone had got into the flat."

"No, hanging on the wall", he said.

"Oh, that's just the old judge—the red robe and the fur collar. It was from my mother's family", said Mrs Bittell, in a deprecating way. She had caught Sidney's taste for horrors. "I fear not a very nice man. They say he was sentenced to death."

"Oh", Sidney nodded. "History."

"I suppose it is", said Mrs Bittell. "I like the next one to it, the boy in blue satin with his little sword—the Little Count. I don't know whether he was really a Little Count."

"Is he the one that was sentenced to death?" said Sidney.

"Oh no", said Mrs Bittell protectively. "The Little Count was the father of the judge."

She had her own pride in her family's crimes.

He gazed a long time at the Little Count and again at the judge. He gave a sigh. "The Battle of Waterloo was on television last night. Did you see it?"

"I'm afraid not", Mrs Bittell apologized. "I haven't a television. I believe the Misses

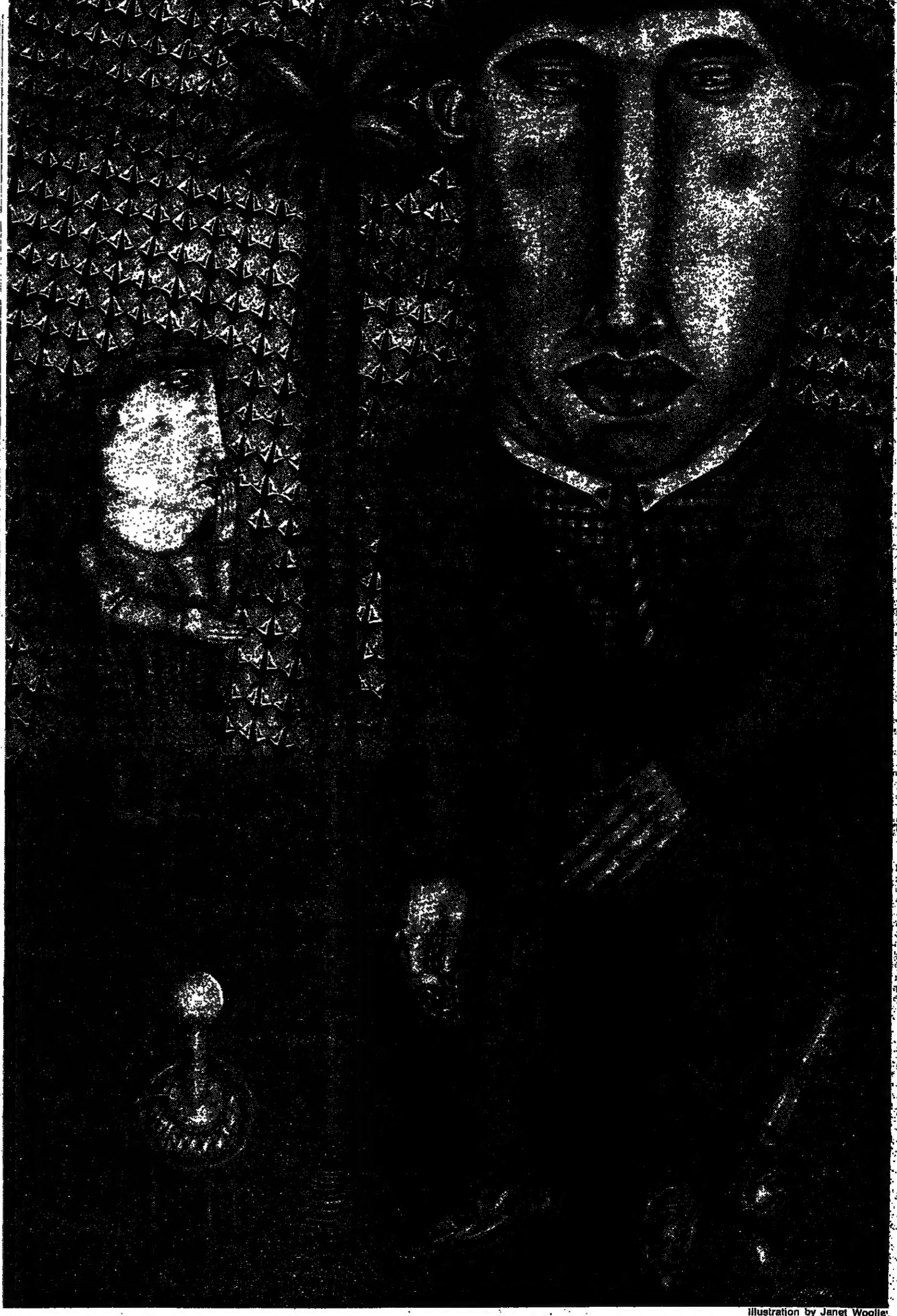


Illustration by Janet Woolley

Pattison have. I can hear it at night." Her wrongs woke up indignantly. "I don't know why they should complain of my piano."

Sidney ignored this. "Do you think the Duke of Wellington was sincere?" he said.

"They say he was very witty", said Mrs Bittell.

"But do you think he was sincere?"

"Sincere?" said Mrs Bittell. "He was lost. I've never thought of that," she said.

She saw he was struggling with a moral question, but what was it? She felt one of those violent sensations that swept through her nowadays since her quarrels about the piano. Did Sidney, who was older than she, had at first thought more than 30, his dark hair receding, did Sidney feel too that sincerity, honesty, consideration, were wearing thin in modern life?

"I know what you mean"

said Mrs Bittell, who did not. She compared Sidney with her ancestors and even with the Duke of Wellington. Sidney was reaching towards the light, she could not say her forebears had ever done so.

She had known the family pictures all her life as furniture: they represented the boredom of centuries, of now meaning less anger. When her husband left her she had seen herself as a woman ruined by generations of reckless plunderers of land, putting down rebellions, fighting wars, gambling and drinking away their money, building big houses, losing their land to lawyers and farmers, grabbing the money of their wives and quarrelling with their children. She saw herself with unassuming pride as the victim of history. Even in the Mansions—her rising anger told her—her own class had betrayed her.

She calmed herself by showing him a photograph of a boy of 10. "My only grandson", she said. "Of course he's grown up now. Rupert."

"I've got a friend called Rupert", Sidney said.

"Really. Such a nice name", said Mrs Bittell, putting the photograph down.

"He used to work at Murgatroyd's", he said, suddenly eager. "You must have seen him—tall, fair moustache, He left."

"I don't remember", she said. "But wait—didn't you bring him to the church?"

"That's it", said Sidney. "He brought me. You don't often meet a man who has had an education. Every Sunday we used to go to a different church—St Paul's, Westminster Abbey. He knew about antiques too. Lunchtime and Saturdays we used to go to the National Gallery. He could see into pictures. If he was here now", he said, surveying her

pictures and her furniture, "he'd have valued everything. It was very interesting."

"Very", said Mrs Bittell.

"I was in the National Gallery this morning", he said. "It's my day off. I had the idea I might find him there. I've been everywhere we went. Holborn Baths too, we used to go swimming."

"And did you find him?" said Mrs Bittell.

"No", said Sidney, looking aloof. "I don't know where he is. He walked out of the shop last August; not a word."

He paused in the midst of his mystery.

"He left the place where he lived. I went round, but he'd gone. The landlady didn't know. No address. Not a word."

"Too extraordinary", said Mrs Bittell.

"I mean, you'd think a friend wouldn't go like that. I thought he was sincerely my

friend." Sidney gazed at her for an answer. "After three years", he said.

He aged as he gazed. He seemed as if he were the last of a series of Sidneys, who were now quite austere along with a slight smile on his mouth, to see the distinction of his case.

"Oh, but there must be an explanation, Sidney", said Mrs Bittell.

She had an inspiration. "Was he married? I mean—was he going to get married?"

Sidney looked at her dispassionately. "Rupert would never marry", he said. "I know that. It was ruin, it always said; you were better alone."

"If it's the wrong person," said Mrs Bittell, nodding, "be in the Kingdom of Heaven there is neither marriage nor giving in marriage," she said. "As the Bible says." The run continued on opposite page







The designer, Peter Mumford, frames the first half between a floor cloth and angled ceiling, both white checked with a dark grid. For the second half, the ceiling tips to a steeper angle, turning into a mirror that reflects the stage pattern, so that you can see it from above as well as straight on.

There was some tentativeness in the dancing at times, in Alston's and Tetley's unfamiliar choreography, but not such as prevented a first impression that the company is entering a stronger phase with a number of talented young dancers beginning to feel their wings.





**RADIO**

## TELEVISION

8.40 Dallas: A typhoon blows the  
Ewings into a difficult money situa-  
tion. Ellie makes a big personal  
sacrifice.

9.30 News: with Richard Whit-  
tles.

9.40 Match of the day : Highlights  
from three of today's FA Cup ties.  
Also Goal of the Month competi-  
tion.

10.15 Parkinson: With Mike Yar-  
wood, Elaine Stritch and Lynda  
Carter (Wonder Woman).

11.50 Weather.

## Regions

SBC 1 variations: Wales: 5.45 am  
News and weather. 7.50 News and weather.  
Scotland: 5.45 am News and weather.  
Northern Ireland: 5.45 am News and weather.  
Ireland: 5.45 News and weather.  
News and weather. England: 7.55 pm

9.30 Playhouse: Lifelike. Drama about the conflicting emotions let loose when a TV company films a realistic play about a comprehensive school. (With Peter Clay, Alan Lewis.)

10.25 Something of a Miracle: 10.25 Ellis reflects on the 1979 International Musical Extradiff at Llangollen.

11.15 News and weather.

11.20 Film: Rosemary's Baby (1968). Very creepy tale about witchcraft in contemporary New York. Directed by Roman Polanski. With Mia Farrow, John Cassavetes, Ruth Gordon (marvellous) and Sidney Blackmer. Film ends at 1.25 am (see Personal Choice).

"Does" "Dome Edna Everage, Mrs.  
 Thatcher, Kate Bush, Angela Ripston  
 (See Personal Choice).  
 8.45 Enemy at the Door: New  
 Quarter Given, War-time drama set  
 in occupied Europe.  
 9.45 News and sport.  
 10.00 David Frost's Olympics  
 Special: Who goes to Moscow?  
 11.00 Saturday Night People: Is  
 TV "gossip column".  
 11.45 Pro-Celebrity Snooker, The  
 Canadian Club Trophy. Steve  
 Davis and Ronnie O'Sullivan play  
 Dennis Taylor and Bill Maynard.  
 12.30 am Close: A Christian Union  
 Week message from the Rev Alec  
 Gilmour.

Aylmer and a young Charles Newberry to compensate for the loss of Graham Moffatt; and Moore Marriott.

The best from later vintage is "The Prisoner," which is J. Edgar Hoover (Tuesday, BBC 2, 9.00). Larry Cohen's meticulously researched, dramatized account of the life of the man who was the face of the FBI's involvement in the redoubtable head of the FBI, brilliantly personified by Broderick Crawford, is a real treat.

Belgium (Wednesday, BBC 1, 6.50) is a harmless character comedy about Americans abroad. It's a little bit like "The Americans," which has appeared in have been the pilot of an abortive television series, with Shelley Winters as the chief of a U.S. consulate in Brussels. The casting, at least, is promising.

## RADIO

## Ticket: Austral

8.05 Play: The Misanthrope.  
Mother's famous play updated to  
1920s. 12:00. With J. Lee  
as Alceste, Cherl Lough as Ce-  
line and Nigel Hawthorne.  
9.30 Crobie and Michael  
Crosby. 10.00. Crosby, 10.00.  
10.30 Spy! The story of Bogdan  
Sashulsky, the Ukrainian trained  
by the KGB to be both spy and  
assassin. He's killed with a cyanide  
gas gun. Eventually, he and his  
wife fled to Western Europe. The Su-  
daneese. 11.00. Live. Merrison  
and Sorcha Cusack.  
10.20 News with Peter Woods.  
10.30 Bishop's Move. Everyman  
series. Bishop's move. Bishop  
of St Albans, who is sworn in next  
month as Archbishop of Canterbury.  
11.00 Inside Japan: The story of  
two Japanese working girls. One  
works in a bank, the other in a  
11.30 Weather.

8.45 News and weather.  
8.55 Stuart Burrows Sings: The Welsh tenor. Plus Dame Janet.  
9.30 Pride and Prejudice: Part 3.  
Enter the formidable Lady Catherine de Bourgh (Judy Parfitt). Another meeting between Elizabeth (Elizabeth Garvie) and Darcy (David Rintoul (see Personal Choice)).  
10.15 Blind Ambition: Final instalment of the American TV series about Watergate through the eyes of John Dean, special counsel to President Nixon. Tonight the end of the sordid affair (see Personal Choice). Film ends at 12.05 am.

6.00: **Credo** : State-supported musical schools in Britain? 6.30: **News** 6.40: **Appeal**: Erin Pizzey and the Churchwick Family Rescue that she founded 6.45: **Your 100 Best Hymns**: Viewers' requests are answered. 7.05: **Family Fortunes** : Family quiz game 7.15: **Question Time**: A question of luck more than intelligence. 7.45: **The Spoils of War**: New drama series about what the last war did to Britain. 8.15: **The Late Late Show**: by John Finch (who wrote the BBC's current serial *Flesh and Blood*). 8.45: **Pig in the Middle**: New comedy about a husband (Dinsdale Landen), wife (Joanna van Gysegem) and Other Woman (Lisa Goddard). 9.15: **Robert**: Yet another new drama about a husband and wife (Robert Wagner, Stephanie Powers) who like solving mysteries. Part 1. 9.30: **News** 10.30: **Hart to Hart**: Part 2. 11.15: **Michel Legrand and Friends**: The French singer-composer, with Julie Francis and the jazz saxophonist Phil Woods. 12.15: **Closer**: Christian Unity Week talk by the Rev Alan Gilmore.

1.32 Roy Castle, † 2.02 Alan Dale  
3.52 Peter Claverton, † 4.02 Count  
Style, † 4.30 Simi Something Something  
5.02 Waggoner's Walk, † 6.02  
Chance, † 7.30 Two's Best, † 8.30  
Tune, † 9.02 Peter Goodwin  
10.02 Request Show, † 11.02  
Kibbey, † 12.05-1.00 Am. You and  
Night and the Music, †

## Radio 1

6.00 Am As Radio 2, 8.00 Ton  
Blackburn, 10.00 Noel Edmondson,  
1.00 pm Jimmy Saville, 3.00 Tim  
Sundie, Request Show, 5.00  
40.47-02 Frank Zappra, 9.00 Alan  
Korner, † 10.02 Sound of Jazz  
12.00-5.00 Am As Radio 2.

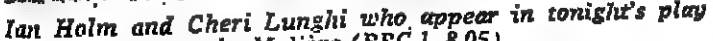
VHF RADIOS 1 AND 2 With 6.00 at  
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1, 12.00-5.00 pm With Radio 2.

## World Service

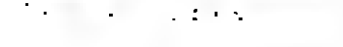
BBC World Service can be received  
via the following medium wave (MW)  
frequencies at the following times:  
6.00-7.00 News at Britain, 7.15-7.30  
News at 7.30, 7.45-8.00 News at 8.00,  
Reflections, 8.15 The World News,  
8.30-9.00 News at 9.00, 9.15-9.30  
News at 9.15, 9.45-10.00 News at 9.45,  
10.15-10.30 Sports Review,  
10.30-11.00 World News,  
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News

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WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: †STEREO; \*BLACK AND WHITE;  
(x) REPEAT.



- The curtain rises, and falls, tonight on the final act of the Watergate drama (BBC 2, 10.35) and I have, in turn, been confused, thrilled, chilled, astonished and gripped by it. Can it really have been like this? Did the President's men really think they could get away with it like this? My reason says no. My press cuttings say yes. For six hours or so, during the past four weeks, Martin Sheen, as John Dean, has had little to do but look remorseful or bored. His triumph as an actor is that, though imprisoned in this narrow emotional range, he has never once looked or been boring.
- William Somerset Maugham's *The Razor's Edge*, the Old Curiosity Shop ends next Sunday night. You will be able to judge from the penultimate episode (BBC 1, 5.25) what a fantastic (I use the word advisedly) job Trevor Peacock is making of Quilp, how painstakingly the period details and characters (Albert Shepherd's furnaceman a fortnight ago, Annabelle Lanyon's Marchioness tonight) are being realized, and—perhaps most praiseworthy of all—how solid, lived-in and atmospheric are Michael Edwards's sets.
- Now that Fay Weldon's serialization of *Pride and Prejudice* is getting into its stride (part 3 tonight, BBC 2, 9.30) my initial misgivings are beginning to recede, though I still think some of the dialogue which sparkles and stings on the page seems too unwieldy from some of the characters, and I still feel there should be more legato, less pizzicato, about the way the plot unfolds.
- I keep seeing the name Carl Davis among the credit titles. The period-perfect musical score for Hollywood (ITV, Tuesday nights) is his. So is the wistful music for *The Old Curiosity Shop*. And so is the music we hear in tonight's updated (from the 1660s to the 1920s) version of John Wood translation, though As to the play itself, this one I don't mention the fact. On BBC 1, 8.05, the Radio Times gives me a drama on TV tonight, it seems a pity that it isn't.
- With so much good drama on all nights to repeat it on Radio 3 (7.00) has chosen this night of all nights to repeat its near-legendary 1964 production of Chekhov's *Three Sisters* with their remarkable cast—Paul Scofield, Jill Bennett, Ian Redgrave, Iris Murdoch, Crutchley, Wilfrid Lawson, Ian McEwan, George Cole, et al. Tomorrow night brings a fascinating experience—the play after Moscow, in which Arnold Yarrow moves the sisters forward in time (Radio 4, 7.45).











Looking towards the superb west front of York Minster

## Gardening

## Through the catalogues

Five years ago we felt that there was not much "spin off" as the saying goes, to the benefit of amateur gardeners from the huge breeding programmes being carried on by seed growers and research institutions all over the world mainly aimed at benefiting commercial growers. Certainly breeders have many aims in mind—resistance to diseases and, hopefully, but achieved less frequently, to pests, increased yield, early or late cropping to extend the season.

Very important to commercial growers supplying vegetables for canning or freezing is to have crops of, say, peas or Brussels sprouts that all mature at once so that they can be mechanically harvested and dealt with in one operation. Good flavour many people feel is a useful, if fortuitous, bonus and as so many people disagree about flavour in vegetables or fruits even—that is an aspect I do not propose to take further at the moment.

The amateur, however, does not want strains of vegetables that all mature at once. He wants to be able to cut lettuce and cabbages or pick Brussels sprouts over as long a period as possible. That is why we welcomed the appearance of mixed lettuces and mixed radishes—they spread the harvesting period from one sowing over a month or more besides giving a variety of lettuce colours and shapes of radishes. To some extent, the lettuce "Salad Bowl", which makes a large rosette of crinkly leaves, has solved the problem of all

our lettuce bolting to seed in a hot spell. You can go on picking leaves as you need them for many weeks.

But we amateurs have gained in the past few years in that some varieties, bred first with the commercial market in mind, stand much longer in good condition, or are resistant to pests and diseases. There are I know some people who prefer the softer "butterhead" lettuce to the crisp type like "Webbs Wonderful" (New York) but I think most of us like a crisp lettuce. Now "Avoncrisp" was bred in this country and is better suited to our climate than the American "Webbs Wonderful" types. It is very slow to bolt to seed, it is resistant to lettuce root aphid and it is also resistant to mildew.

Then we are seeing welcome developments with cabbages. Some of the new F1 hybrid varieties stand far longer without splitting or bursting than the older varieties—often for months. Of these new varieties, we have "Hispi" and "Minicola" among others for spring sowing and "Spring Hero" for sowing in the autumn. So too with Brussels sprouts. The first I think of the F1 hybrids with the "long standing" characteristic is "Pace Cyt", still a splendid early sprout. But "Rasmunda" is a very late variety that stands well and there are several more F1 hybrids worth a trial. The point I am trying to make is that it is worth while reading the catalogue descriptions and whenever you see a variety noted for being "long standing", try a packet.

There have been developments with tomatoes. Millions of plants of that weary old variety "Money-maker" will be sold in the spring in high street shops and garden centres, and I suppose this nonsense will go on for years. AH that "Money-maker" ever had to commend it was its catchy name and the fact that it sets its fruits well in an amateur's greenhouse. But it is a long jointed tomato—this means you get fewer cusses of fruit in a greenhouse than with short jointed tomatoes; it tastes of nothing, it is almost certain to suffer from cladospore disease and green back. Ask any seedsmen if he would grow "Money-maker" in his own greenhouse and he will say "Not on your life".

So what do we grow? I suggest for the greenhouse "Eurocross A" of "Super-cross", both of which are from various sources and "Rouadale" as an outdoor variety, from Unwins, or perhaps "M M" from Dobies who also offer "Herald", a sweetly flavoured tomato, both for the greenhouse. Personally I like a sweet tomato and usually grow a few plants of the very sweet "Golden Sunrise". But there has been considerable activity with the dwarf bush outdoor varieties. We grow some with great success, law, started off in growing bags in a frame. There was a huge yield, although the fruits were a bit on the small side, not that this really matters because you always get a lot of fruit. "Alfred" did very well and we will grow it again. It is claimed that it will produce 10lb of fruit a plant and this I can well believe.

Now for some thoughts about marrows, or rather courgettes, as everybody knows, a courgette is a marrow picked when very small, six inches or so long. Left to grow it will make a big marrow. But in recent years the seedsmen have been getting to work on these marrow varieties and there are several F1 hybrids which are used as courgettes, very early fruiting and very prolific.

A friend of mine has found a way to produce large numbers of courgettes in a small area. He planted the variety "Green Bush" F1 hybrid (from Suttons) 18in apart and grew them up bamboo canes. In spite of their rather misleading name, they do produce long stems, if trained on the cordon system, and will even reach four feet. They crop prodigiously, provided, of course, the fruits are picked when very small. Once you let a few marrows grow large the plant goes on strike and fails to produce any more.

My friend also gave me a tip he picked up in Italy. There the courgette growers, when they cut a courgette, also cut away the leaf immediately below it. This encourages the plant to go on growing, reaching for the light and making more leaves said fruits.

Roy Hay

Mr William Shatner is an actor known to millions as the intrepid Captain Kirk, hero of "Star Trek". Associating him, as one does, with the fiction of the future, it was something of a surprise—albeit a pleasant one—to encounter him among the solid evidence of history, and English history at that. The encounter took place at the Lygon Arms in Broadway, one Sunday last month. Mr Shatner, with his wife and three daughters, had travelled there merely for lunch, but was persuaded to remain overnight so as to see something more of the Cotswold countryside, and something more of the inn, parts of which are probably around six centuries old.

He said afterwards that he thoroughly enjoyed the experience, as did the Shatner ladies. He also said that he would one day return to the Cotswolds for a proper weekend holiday, and if his work does bring him back to England I am pretty sure he will keep that promise. For even in the gloom of December the Cotswolds make an attractive setting in which to relax. There is natural beauty, as well as that made by man, and the stuff of history.

Much as I love the Cotswolds, I must not dwell on them for the intention is to write about weekends away in various parts of the country. The Lygon was in my mind because of the chance meeting with Mr Shatner and his family, and because I noticed that it offers a special weekend inclusive arrangement until the end of March. The sum of £52.75 covers accommodation in a room with a private bathroom for two nights, morning tea or coffee, English breakfast and a daily allowance of £9 towards a la carte dinner.

Similar arrangements are offered by many hundreds of hotels throughout the country, and details of these are published in "Let's Go", which the English Tourist Board produce each year. "Short breaks" in autumn and spring is the subtitle that says all.

The Lygon Arms is a member of the Prestige Hotels chain—though in truth it is not a chain in the generally accepted sense of the word, rather a loose grouping of

independent establishments all of which are of high standard. Within that group the Lygon Arms, the Close at Tisbury, the Elms Hotel at Abberley, and the Cottage in the Wood at Malvern Wells form "Club 4", and as all are within easy reach of each other, I suppose one could spend a weekend trying them all, although it would be a hectic one. Better, perhaps, to spread your enjoyment over a number of weekends. Like the Lygon Arms, the other three have special weekend arrangements—£45 at the Elms, £42 at the Cottage in the Wood and £32 at the Close.

I do recall, very many years ago, enthusing about weekend holidays in Britain, but being "put down" by critics who said that such holidays were unlikely to prove popular because the weather is so unpredictable. They also had harsh things to say about the general standards of cooking and comfort in "rural" hotels.

My experience of both lately indicates that great improvements have been made. Certainly one need not fear freezing bedrooms or indifferent food if the hotel is chosen carefully.

Another comparatively recent innovation on the "weekend away" scene is the way in which hotel groups have marketed inclusive arrangements under an assortment of brand names: "Hushaway", "Breakaway", "Winterbreaks", "Weekenders", and the like.

One such programme uses the brand name "Hushaway" and offers a choice of 75 hotels in 54 locations, including London and other large cities. This scheme is managed by Thistle Hotels in conjunction with Centre Hotels and Embassy Hotels. In addition to two nights' accommodation and continental breakfast, the price of a "Hushaway" weekend can include second class rail travel from your local station. A weekend to the White Swan at York may be had for £24.05, including travel from London, for example, or for £26.50 if you travel from south Glamorgan. Hotels in London, Chester, York, Edinburgh and Aviemore are included in this railway travel arrangement.

"Hushaway" claims to be the second largest programme of its type in Britain, but much as I congratulate the organizers on its obvious success, I do wish they would charge a trifle more and include a full English breakfast

## Travel

## Getting away at the end of a week

in that basic price. I do not like having to pay extra, when in England, for an English breakfast, but as this is a subject I have aired here before along with the creeping infiltration of drink dispensing machines in hotels perhaps it would be better to pass on to another aspect of weekend holidaymaking.

This is the trend towards enjoying a weekend with a special purpose—one with a local historical theme, a music weekend, and so on. All manner of variations are available. I recall a ghost hunting weekend which I enjoyed a year or so ago, and rather they are as popular now as ever. I also heard about a weekend devoted to "spotting" unidentified flying objects, and I know, also, of gastronomic weekends and the like.

Embassy Hotels offer a number of these arrangements which they have called Leisure Learning and which are available throughout the year, not only during the spring or autumn. The various themes include country photography, historic houses, industrial heritage, antiquaries, the history of pottery and the canals of Britain. Ideal, I would have thought, for those who holiday alone, for the sharing of a hobby or other interest is an ideal way to break the barrier of unfamiliarity. An example from the Leisure Learning brochure which caught my eye was the literary heritage weekend from March 28 to 30 at the Durdley Hall Hotel, Bournemouth. Hardy's Wessex is the theme and the cost is £44 per person.

Special theatre weekends are included in Embassy's brochure of "Hushaway" winter breaks, which are available until the middle of April. These are based on Coventry, Cardiff and Leicester, at Tenham Wood near Wolverhampton, and at Leigh. The majority of the "Hushaway" weekends have no special theme, however, and are located in a variety of hotels, ranging from old inns such as the Peacock at Rowsley in Derbyshire, the King's Arms at Bicester, or the Lythe Hill Hotel at Haslemere, to seaside and city hotels. The various prices include two nights' accommodation, early morning tea, full English breakfast (boozey and evening meals).

Space does not permit me to go into details of all the weekend holidays available in "packaged" form. I can do no

more than nod in the direction of Grand Metropolitan's "Camelot" country holidays, of British Transport Hotels' "Winterbreak" weekends, or of the short break holidays offered by Galleon (weekends or mid-week). And I am sure I have missed completely a number of other worthy organizations who will find it hard to forgive the omission.

You may obtain the "Let's Go" book, free of charge and postage, from the English Tourist Board, Hendon Road, Sunderland, SR9 9XZ.

Prestige Hotels' central office is at 414 King's Road, London, SW10 0LJ. Details of the Highlife programme may be had from a travel agent, or from the central reservation office, PO Box 1RA, Gallowgate, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE99 1RA. The Leisure Learn-

ing weekends are organized by Embassy Hotels, Station Street, Burton upon Trent, Staffs, DE14 1BZ. Embassy's "Hushaway" weekends are not sold via travel agents and you must obtain brochures and other information from Embassy Hotels, 34 Queen's Gate, London, SW7 5JA. The Grand Metropolitan, British Transport Hotels, and Galleon arrangements are available through travel agents, but in case of difficulty Grand Metropolitan brochures may be had from PO Box 863, Paddington, London, W2 2DU. British Transport Hotels Holidays in Britain service is at PO Box 179 St Pancras Chambers, Euston Road, London, NW1, and Galleon is at Galleon House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1EG.

John Carter

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## Chess

## Bad losers

and this was the cunning feature of the trap, if he accepted the third pawn and this looked like a desperate gesture on my part, then I had a mating attack. His appetite for pawns was such that he gobbled all three.

It is usual when resigning in a tournament to shake hands. Instead to my surprise, he abruptly got up, left the playing hall and was not seen for five hours.

Gulfed is a good-natured chap and he soon forgave me for my belated victory. We went over the game together and he told me in Russian "You were playing like a pro" to which I unfeelingly replied, "Yes, but it worked".

Since then, whenever I have noticed Gulfed doing well in a tournament, I have taken a proprietary interest in his success.

Which is why I do not give the game I won against him at Keskemet (to tell the truth I am rather ashamed of it) and instead give a game he won against the Yugoslav grandmaster, E. Ivancovic, at Sochi on the Black Sea last year, where our own Bill Hartston was competing.

White: E. Gulfed. Black: B. Ivancovic. Sicilian Defence.

1. P-K4, 2. P-Q4, 3. N-K3, 4. P-K3, 5. P-Q4, 6. P-K3, 7. P-Q4, 8. P-K3, 9. P-Q4, 10. P-K3, 11. P-Q4, 12. P-K3, 13. P-Q4, 14. P-K3, 15. P-Q4, 16. P-K3, 17. P-Q4, 18. P-K3, 19. P-Q4, 20. P-K3, 21. P-Q4, 22. P-K3, 23. P-Q4, 24. P-K3, 25. P-Q4, 26. P-K3, 27. P-Q4, 28. P-K3, 29. P-Q4, 30. P-K3, 31. P-Q4, 32. P-K3, 33. P-Q4, 34. P-K3, 35. P-Q4, 36. P-K3, 37. P-Q4, 38. P-K3, 39. P-Q4, 40. P-K3, 41. P-Q4, 42. P-K3, 43. P-Q4, 44. P-K3, 45. P-Q4, 46. P-K3, 47. P-Q4, 48. P-K3, 49. P-Q4, 50. P-K3, 51. P-Q4, 52. P-K3, 53. P-Q4, 54. P-K3, 55. P-Q4, 56. P-K3, 57. P-Q4, 58. P-K3, 59. P-Q4, 60. P-K3, 61. P-Q4, 62. P-K3, 63. P-Q4, 64. P-K3, 65. P-Q4, 66. P-K3, 67. P-Q4, 68. P-K3, 69. P-Q4, 70. P-K3, 71. P-Q4, 72. P-K3, 73. P-Q4, 74. P-K3, 75. P-Q4, 76. P-K3, 77. P-Q4, 78. P-K3, 79. P-Q4, 80. P-K3, 81. P-Q4, 82. P-K3, 83. P-Q4, 84. P-K3, 85. P-Q4, 86. P-K3, 87. P-Q4, 88. P-K3, 89. P-Q4, 90. P-K3, 91. P-Q4, 92. P-K3, 93. P-Q4, 94. P-K3, 95. P-Q4, 96. P-K3, 97. P-Q4, 98. P-K3, 99. P-Q4, 100. P-K3, 101. P-Q4, 102. P-K3, 103. P-Q4, 104. P-K3, 105. P-Q4, 106. P-K3, 107. P-Q4, 108. P-K3, 109. P-Q4, 110. P-K3, 111. P-Q4, 112. P-K3, 113. P-Q4, 114. P-K3, 115. P-Q4, 116. P-K3, 117. P-Q4, 118. P-K3, 119. P-Q4, 120. P-K3, 121. P-Q4, 122. P-K3, 123. P-Q4, 124. P-K3, 125. P-Q4, 126. P-K3, 127. P-Q4, 128. P-K3, 129. P-Q4, 130. P-K3, 131. P-Q4, 132. P-K3, 133. P-Q4, 134. P-K3, 135. P-Q4, 136. P-K3, 137. P-Q4, 138. P-K3, 139. P-Q4, 140. P-K3, 141. P-Q4, 142. P-K3, 143. P-Q4, 144. P-K3, 145. P-Q4, 146. P-K3, 147. P-Q4, 148. P-K3, 149. P-Q4, 150. P-K3, 151. P-Q4, 152. P-K3, 153. P-Q4, 154. P-K3, 155. P-Q4, 156. P-K3, 157. P-Q4, 158. P-K3, 159. P-Q4, 160. P-K3, 161. P-Q4, 162. P-K3, 163. P-Q4, 164. P-K3, 165. P-Q4, 166. P-K3, 167. P-Q4, 168. P-K3, 169. P-Q4, 170. P-K3, 171. P-Q4, 172. P-K3, 173. P-Q4, 174. P-K3, 175. P-Q4, 176. P-K3, 177. P-Q4, 178. P-K3, 179. P-Q4, 180. P-K3, 181. P-Q4, 182. P-K3, 183. P-Q4, 184. P-K3, 185. P-Q4, 186. P-K3, 187. P-Q4, 188. P-K3, 189. P-Q4, 190. P-K3, 191. 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Fred Emery

# War fever, but not at Westminster

The Cabinet's considered view that 1939 is not upon us in deciding how to disapprove of Soviet aggression was well reflected on an almost empty Westminster stage. The cockpit was packed at Question Time, with the sound of fury and the smell of bad blood over the steel strike. But there was an unexcited, almost listless reception for the announcement of British ways to make the Russians understand they cannot get away with another Afghanistan. MPs' attendance rapidly thinned, even on the Conservative side.

This may have been because the measures were unexceptionable (even the Opposition held its fire) or because they had been treated too well in advance; or because of Sir Ian Gilmour's studied talent for on-showmanship. But despite a few right-wing Tory grumbles Mr Kingman Brewster, the United States Ambassador, watching from the gallery might have reflected how laconic the British can seem, compared with the revived rapture for President Carter from the joint session of Congress hearing his rough State of the Union message the night before. But at least he is grateful to have some allied action to report back to Washington, unlike his colleagues in Paris or Bonn.

Another even more striking index of Westminster listlessness was the close of the following debate on Britain and nuclear weapons. Now here was an issue for spending and ideological contentiousness. It was spiced by the revelation that Britain's Polaris missiles are being kept abreast of the game with what sounds like a home-built MARV (manoeuvrable warhead rather than the Hyde-like MRV).

Codenamed Chevaline (French origin for equine, as in horse-meat butchers)—appropriate considering the secret involvement of Labour and Conservative governments alike—it will cost a fortune. And even that will seem small beside the replacement for Polaris which the Government plans for the 1990s.

## Whatever its words this Government's actions abroad are a lot more cautious than they are at home

Yet at 9.28 pm on Thursday with the wind-up speeches underway no more than 53 MPs were present; only 10 press reporters were in the gallery.

The usual numbers gathered for the 10 pm division. But the point here is not the number of absentees, only observation that war fever elsewhere has not disturbed the Westminster routine. It may be that debates do not matter, especially when the Government chooses to make decisions first and debate after, as with the stationing of US cruise missiles here.

But there is another reason. It is a deeper, and largely privately held belief among many MPs, that whatever its words this Government's actions abroad are a lot more cautious than they are at home. This makes for maximum political clamour over economic policy and attitudes towards unions, and for virtual acquiescence, a let-them-get-on-with-it in foreign policy.

Of course there are differences. The Labour left is indignant over Lord Soames' alleged bias against Mr Mugabe in Rhodesia; Labour's NEC (without Mr Callaghan forcing a vote) came out against US cruise missiles in Britain. Privately, Mr Callaghan holds that Mrs Thatcher is making a hash of the Olympic issue, and courting a rebuff.

But basically there is no real challenge because the Government has been doing rather well in foreign affairs. There is the Rhodesia settle-

ment; there is the standing up and being counted on the EEC budget, and being in the van, up with the Americans, in protest over Afghanistan. And although the Olympics issue looks an unholy mess at the moment, some ministers remain convinced that the Russians are going to be fool enough to provoke a greater boycott of the summer games than looks likely. In that sense, the banishment of Dr Sakharov was timely for the Government, even though its own rushing about over the Olympics bears all the signs of disarray.

The sense of reassurance over foreign affairs, if that is what it is, also stems from the characters of Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, and Sir Ian Gilmour, his deputy. They are accepted by most Labour politicians as sane men, who have learned not to flap, and they are credited, along with others in defence matters, in restraining the Prime Minister's reputed propensity for impulsive action. If only, say some of the moderates in all parties, they had more influence on economic policy.

Their text would be the candid "we have no intention of hurting ourselves", with which Sir Ian reassured a questioner about London engineering contracts with the Russians. Can not that policy be applied to our domestic problems too?

The economic ministers insist, like doctors, that there has to be pain in a cure. And those dissatisfied with the

ragged Western response to the Soviet Union insist there will have to be sacrifices there, too, if it is to bite: hard answers to the American oil profligacy, like Mrs Thatcher's painful but courageous decision, in the long term, raising gas prices.

But still the question is posed of whether we have to intend to hurt ourselves unnecessarily—and that is still the real bone of contention in our politics. Can it make sense for the steel strike to end up costing outrageously far more than it would have done to settle before it started?

I accept the point of those who uphold the suggestion of appeasing blackmail, who insist that there has to be sticking points. But government is not in office to miss opportunities to settle a strike; and some members of the Cabinet think there is a danger of that. Let the sticking point be the Government's insistence on productivity, that the steelmen genuinely earn pay increases.

But equally there seems no reason why the Government should not look again at the question of steel plant closures which this year will reduce the existing work force by one-third, and reduce production capacity to the margin of deindustrialization.

The Government has made much of the last steel sector working party report in complaining how low down British workers are in the EEC productivity league.

But the same report, in a little noticed passage, noted that the British even point for the majority of our EEC steel competitors was not being planned before the end of 1981—compared with the deadline for BSC beginning this March.

A solution for steel will take more money. And it is not only Mr Callaghan who has to decide whether we need to apply sticking plasters to our foreign trade while risking a haemorrhage at home.



Charging hot metal before the strike at Scunthorpe.

## Grim days counting the pennies in steel town

Scunthorpe is still wearing its Christmas decorations. Civic fairy lights and snowy lanterns festoon the town centre, until and forlorn in the cutting January wind, as if to remind the town of better times past, before the Great Strike.

Three-quarters of the working men of Scunthorpe are employed by British Steel, and are on strike. The pubs are full of the unemployed, the new rich who have done money to spend while the steelmen lurk at home wishing they got strike pay. The shops stay in business—although they are starting to lay off their part-time staff—because this is a town of working wives.

A year ago 18,000 people worked for the British Steel Corporation at the biggest steel plant of all, producing one-fifth of the corporation's entire output. By the end of this year there will be few more than 13,000 jobs left. The prospects are grim, but the strike appears solid, and hardening.

"The Government thought the steel industry would be a soft touch. Don't tell me that the original 2 per cent offer wasn't made on orders from Maggie Thatcher. It was calculated to get our hackles up," says a storeman from the rod mill. "And they thought Scunthorpe would be a pushover, because we have never gone in much for strikes here. Well, they're wrong; we've got the taste for it now."

Mr George Teale, chairman of the local ISTC strike committee, is scornful of the current offer of 12 per cent, with possible additional 3 per cent at Scunthorpe. "It's a con trick; there's nothing in it for us at all, except the wholesale selling of jobs. We stand to lose 5,000 here; they will reduce and reduce until there are no workers left at all."

"There are men here demanding a ballot on acceptance and a return to work. My answer is, where was the ballot on getting rid of 5,000 jobs?"

Mr Teale, who operates from a redundant town centre office labelled "Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme Headquarters", claims he had more than 1,000 pickets on duty one day last week. "Everybody's attitude is hardening. We are digging in; the feeling is that now we are out,

we will stay out for 20 per cent."

As if to underline the hardening attitude, the strike committee this week threatened to withdraw the vital safety men from the Iron Queens. Scunthorpe's four giant blast furnaces, and the coke ovens, unless management laid off the non-union staff grades still at work, BSC has agreed to lay off 100 by Monday.

Not everyone agrees with Mr Teale. Mr Roger Cuckow has been trying to call a mass meeting of strikers who want to accept and return, but has been thwarted by threats of intimidation.

"I have had hundreds of phone calls of support. A lot of people want to know what right the ISTC has to keep us out when they don't know what we feel. People here were increased at the original offer, and they are not necessarily happy with the present offer, but they want to go back and let ACAS sort out the fine print."

"We will be the losers in the end if we stay out."

Mr Cuckow has lost £300 in wages since the strike began, and has recouped only £24.50 in social security. His wife earns £19 a week as a part-time post office clerk to help pay their mortgage.

His like-minded moderates are not happy that the Labour-controlled Scunthorpe council has voted to support the strike and has given the strike committee an office at nominal rent.

Many others are also angry that Mr Arthur Scargill, the Yorkshire miners' leader, has entered the fray. "He's only shooting his mouth off because we make all the pit props and arches for the South-Yorkshire coalfield at Scunthorpe. He knows very well his pits will shut down as soon as their supplies run out," said one striker with thickly-disguised satisfaction.

In the middle of 4,500 acres of idle plant stretching beyond the horizon in all directions and served by its own 250-mile internal rail system, Mr Don Ford, the works director, surveys his vast empire. "This place was built to produce 5,500,000 tonnes of steel a year. Now I have to reduce my output to three million tonnes, and I have to make this place break even."

"By the end of this month we will have lost £10m, more than we did in the first nine months of last year, when this plant was operating reasonably efficiently."

"We have already shed 1,700 jobs in the last year. This plant is among the most efficient anywhere in BSC. But somehow we still have to find more fat to cut. My raw material costs will go up by 20 per cent in the next year, and my prices probably by 5 per cent. Work that one out for yourself."

The manager of the Scunthorpe job centre looks despairingly at his almost empty vacancy boards. Advertised opportunities for skilled men in a Dutch steelworks, and at the Longbridge car plant, have elicited little response.

"All my vacancies are for skilled men, and all the men on my books are unskilled. It is very difficult to place men over 50. And Scunthorpe itself will never be able to absorb the forthcoming steel redundancies. What other industry there is relies on the steelworks, like haulage contractors and maintenance firms."

Yesterday he had 588 vacancies on his books; a year ago he had nearly 1,000. In a town of women's work with hosiery, electronics and potato crisp factories, he still has 1,439 unemployed females on his register, besides his 2,668 jobless men.

But people are reluctant to leave Sunny Scunthorpe, however hard times are. Its worst enemy is its own name, the subject of many a vulgar music hall joke. But its weather is good. Jobs are to be had 30 miles away on booming Humberdale for those with the will and the money to make the journey. And the town has some of the cheapest housing in Britain with a respectable modern semi to be had at £10,000 and a country mansion for £30,000.

As attitudes harden, and the men face the prospect of at least another week on strike before the ice begins to crack, Scunthorpe's strike leaders have put the dispute firmly in its political context. Yesterday they were issuing leaflets inscribed: "Save BSC—Smelt the Iron Lady."

Alan Hamilton



Photograph by Neville Chadwick

Brass bands are still a strongly male preserve but the increasing number of women players, conductors and composers is one of the most significant changes in the last 40 years in what has become probably the largest amateur music making movement.

Two women in particular have entries in the record books as conductors of championship bands: Mrs Barbara Stone, of High Wycombe, a freelance conductor and adjudicator but previously conductor of the British Rail Band at Swindon and latterly musical director of the former Haswell Band (now the Roneo-Vickers Band), and Miss Betty Anderson, of Leicester, who is musical director of the Ratby Band.

Mrs Stone has the distinction of being the first woman to conduct a band in the "first division" in the national brass band championships: Miss Anderson was the first woman to conduct in the British Open Championships.

Women have played a prominent part in Salvation Army bands, almost from their inception 100 years ago. Until 40 years ago the secular, or competitive, bands had like the male voice choirs of which they are a parallel musical movement, remained a masculine stronghold. Ironically, it was colliery bands, which one might have expected to resist infiltration, that were among the first to admit women players.

Writing of the national

## More girls are blowing their own trumpets

championships 30 years ago, *The Times* music critic warned: "This is an all-male occasion but the female sex is attempting infiltration by sending girls of tender years to play cornet solos and such. Let the men beware lest their brass brethren be broken wedges."

Even then their entry was more an established fact than a form of infiltration. The first incursions had been made a decade earlier. Betty Anderson, for instance, was one of four girls competing in a national solo contest in 1938. Another competitor was a 13-year-old cornet player, Grace Cole, who was at that time a member of the Firbeck Colliery Band, near Rotherham, the only colliery band with a girl player.

Her father, a colliery deputy, played in the same band. In the war years she gained a reputation as an accomplished soloist and broadcaster with several of the leading brass bands. After the war she left amateur brass bands to form a professional all-female dance band in which she played the trumpet.

Brass adjudicators are usually locked away in a box where they cannot see the bands or soloists. Betty Anderson recalls

how she often got the comment "Well done, my boy" from the adjudicator when the results were announced, so unusual was it for a girl to compete.

The entry of women players predates the women's liberation campaign by many years and has come about naturally and spontaneously. In many cases women and girls filled gaps in the ranks of bands created by wartime service. Many of them remained after the war. Since then the expansion of the teaching of brass instruments in schools and the creation of junior and school bands, backed by strong parental encouragement, has provided a vast reservoir of young players, with girls blowing as enthusiastically as the boys.

Neither Barbara Stone nor Betty Anderson has experienced any prejudice against them in a predominantly male institution. "If women are going to take any part in this movement they should do it because they have an ability and not for any other reason. Most women want to be taken seriously for their ability," says Mrs Stone.

"It is a tough world. Bands are after success and are only interested in something that will help to bring them that

success. It has to be harder for a woman but prejudice has never been a problem so far as I am concerned."

Women, however, can be disruptive if they go into banding for the wrong reasons, such as seeking friendships. Women who are serious about banding have got to be seen to be serious. If they are in it for the right reasons there is nothing that men can object to. Women have proved they have the necessary sustaining power and they are just as dedicated as men are."

Betty Anderson's family association with brass bands goes back more than a century. Her father, a successful tenor horn soloist, taught and encouraged her: together they did the rounds of solo competitions, at first sharing the same instrument. She played solo at concerts with some of the leading bands, such as Black Dyke Mills and Fodens, and when she was a mere 14-year-old she began conducting a local Air Training Corps Band run by her father.

"I cannot understand why girls were such late starters in brass bands," she says. "Probably it was because parents thought the environment was

Champion conductor: Miss Betty Anderson of Leicester with the Ratby brass band: the first woman to conduct in the British Open Championships.

not quite right for girls. The players were generally older and there was also the fact that bands usually met for practice in a public house."

Betty Anderson spent 25 years with Leicester Imperial Band, then moved to nearby Kibworth Band. "When I moved to Kibworth I was playing for the first time with players of my own age group. That was really the first time I had been a woman in a man's world; before that I had been a girl in an old man's world," she says.

"There were no other women in the band at that time. I was the expert and I didn't want them to change for my benefit. I told them: 'Don't worry about not saying things. What I don't want to hear is I will not hear'. I was always willing to make my own acceptable rules. But, having said that, during my entire banding career I have never been in any group of bandmen who have made me think I would not want my mother or my grandmother to hear their conversation. From a woman's point of view I have been particularly lucky."

The pioneering women players to brass bands invariably came from a family background of established players. Their entry was undramatic; a gradual emergence which coincided with the outbreak of the Second World War followed by a quickening post-war intake as bands revived or new ones were started.

Many bands remain entirely male in their constitutions: in some instances the women's role is still confined to organising social events to raise money to keep the bands in existence. In isolated instances wives and female supporters travel to engagements in a separate coach. In general, however, women are playing an increasing part in the movement and the trend can be expected to continue.

It is estimated that of the 3,000 or so musicians taking part in the annual national championships, 10 per cent are now girls aged between eight and twenty. Some bands have only one female player; the band with the largest number is Kilmarnock Concert Brass, the Scottish champions, which has 17 girls among its players.

Cyril Bankbridge  
The author's book *Brass Triumph: a social history of the brass band movement* will be published by Frederick Muller Ltd in May.

## SPORTS DIARY

### The tennis wedding of the year

Bjorn Borg, it seems, is as painstaking about the design of his fiancée's wedding dress as he is about his tennis. "He wanted to know what was going on—and why," says Ted Tintling, the courtier, who is designing Simionescu's dress for her marriage to Borg at Snagov, near Bucharest, on July 24. During the recent Masters Tournament in New York, Tintling went to the couple's suite for preliminary discussions about the dress. "You wouldn't necessarily assume, from his ice-man projection on court, that he would be a gracious host," says Tintling of Borg. "But I found him intelligent, gracious, and possessive."

he was brought up on the French Riviera at a time when it was fashionable. It was there that, as an umpire for Suzanne Lenglen, Tintling began his 55-year association with the game. He has always been controversial—not least when he designed "Gorgeous Gussy" Moran's lace panties in 1949. But in his seventieth year he has at last become part of the tennis establishment: as *chef de protocol* with the task of forming a professional all-female tennis Federation, whose president, Philippe Chatrier, is a personal friend. Essentially, Tintling's task is to compromise between the wishes of sponsors and the policies of the ITF—or, to put it another way, between commerce and the humanities. Just another version, in fact, of the job he has been doing all his working life.

### Men's circuit camp followers

The Borg-Simionescu wedding is a reminder that the men's

circuit is very much a family affair these days. Marilyn Fernberger, the promoter of this week's tournament at Philadelphia, arranged for 10 cribs to be available at the Tournament Hotel. "I was aware of the players with young children. You can't expect cribs to be there automatically when the players walk in. So we called the hotel and warned them. Jimmy Connors and his wife had a refrigerator installed in their rooms so could keep the kids' food stored at the right temperature. At the tennis stadium, baby-sitters have been working in shifts. These days, tennis promoters have to think of everything."

One of the proud new fathers, Brian Gottfried, was telling me the other day why his wife Windy will, in future, always be listed under her proper name, Winifred, when visiting England. "Windy is a kind of nickname. But we just found out that in England 'windy' isn't the nicest thing you can call somebody."

### Double confusion

In men's tennis the ultimate confusion is that surrounding the identical twins, Tim and Tom Glickson. Tim, the right-hander, reckons the best way for spectators to sort them out is to relate the "I" in "Tim" to the "I" in "right". Off court, one clue is the wedding rings. Tom, the left-hander, wears the ring on his right hand—Tim on his left hand. There is also a slight gap in Tom's teeth. Tom is totally left-handed but Tim bats left-handed at baseball and when playing golf. Their father is similarly ambidextrous. When they play golf together, all three are left-handers.

Tim's favourite memory, among many examples of the perplexity they have caused in tennis, goes right back to the start. "I was on the circuit a year before Tom and no one knew he had a twin brother. Louisville, in 1976, was Tom's first grand prix tournament. He was practising his serve

and he has a pretty good left-handed serve. Onny Farun and Gerald Batrick were practising on the next court and they couldn't believe it. Onny told Tom: 'You've got a great serve. Tim. You should serve left-handed in a match.'"

A charming bunch of French tennis writers are spreading around the circuit. For them, game and set are *jeu* and *match*, forehand and backhand are *coup droit* and *revers*, and volley and drop are *volée* and *courte*. Even passing shot and tie-break have defeated them. Dore an Englishman suggest *coup passant* and *casse-croquette*?

### Can Ashe come back?

The circuit's most recent recruit to French studies—while he is convalescing from heart surgery—is Arthur Ashe, who represents a French clothing company. Ashe had a heart attack on July 31, and, after

excessive palpitations on December 3, underwent surgery on December 13. He knew then that his life was in peril whether he had the operation or not. "I've always known that life was unfair. Everybody gets dealt a different number of cards. They told me there was a 1 per cent chance I could die on the operating table, and a 4 to 8 per cent chance that I could have another heart attack during the surgery. But I decided to take my chances. I could live in fear any more." Now Ashe is studying French, busy with himself with a variety of tennis-related activities—and, without being reckless, wondering if he can return to competitive tennis. "If I can't play, I'll suck for five minutes—then I'll get on with something else."

Another black entertainer recently enlivened a rare evening's leisure during the socially inhibiting round of indoor tournaments. This was the large and lusty blues singer, Carrie Smith, who was devoting her vibrant personality and superb professionalism to songs associated with her tragic namesake, Bessie. Songs such as "I ain't nobody's business if I do," "Empty bed blues," "I ain't got nobody," and "nobody knows you when you're down and out" provided an appropriately bawdy prelude to a startling piece of musical education passed on by the pianist in the accompanying quartet. He was Bill Jones, Welshman who, in spite of 20 years in the United States, is still joint owner of a bungalow overlooking Cardigan Bay.

At first, Jones said, it was difficult to anticipate Miss Smith's changes of tempo because he had no clear view of her. Then out of the corner of his eye he noticed that her thinly clad buttocks were structurally expressive. So much so that when a substitute bass player asked "What's the tempo?" Jones told him, with terse simplicity: "Watch her arse."

These trade secrets will slip out. The tennis circuit is consistently enlightening.

Rex Bellamy







**Our Father**  
*From Dr M. Leigh*  
 Sir, The devil and all her works?  
 Yours faithfully,  
**MARGARET E. LEIGH,**  
 2 Park View Road,  
 Ealing, W5.  
 January 24.







# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

Personal investment and finance, pages 18 and 19

**Stock markets**  
FT Index 452.4, up 3.7  
FT Gilt 67.78, down 0.47

**Sterling**  
\$ 2.2640, down 35 pts  
Index 71.9, down 0.1

**Dollar**  
Index 84.9, up 0.2

**Gold**  
\$860 an ounce, down \$45

**Money**  
3 mth £ 174-174  
3 mth Euro-5 144-144  
6 mth Euro-5 144-144

## Plea for state industries to be financed direct from City money markets

Nationalized industries chairmen are pressing for direct access to the City's capital markets and for their borrowings to be removed from calculations of the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement.

As a group they have told Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the sponsoring ministers at the Department of Energy and Industry that cash limits determined to keep public sector borrowing in check are self-defeating if they injure productive investment by nationalized industries.

They claim that investment opportunities which any private company would take by borrowing from the banks are being denied them because of the government's failure to distinguish between the requirements of services such as health and always a drain on the Exchequer, and potentially profitable nationalized industries, which, if allowed to act with independence, would not be.

On the whole the nationalized industries' chairmen have met with a sympathetic response. They believe the problems are at least appreciated, even if little is being done about them.

Increasingly, however, statements by some junior ministers—Mr Adam Butler, an industry minister in one—and by Conservative backbenchers have created a different impression.

Long-serving chairmen of the industries see an old pattern returning whereby the Treasury regards nationalized industry borrowing not as investment for the future, but as a permanent drain on resources, continuously inflating the state borrowing requirement, pushing up the money supply and crowding out private companies from the capital markets.

Under present rules nationalized industries may borrow from private sources only with Treasury permission. Otherwise they are forced to take their requirements from the National Loan Fund.

However, restrictive this may be, government can well argue that any commercial borrowing by nationalized industries, carried in effect, a government guarantee, and consequently is not subject to the same financial disciplines as private companies would be.

The monopoly corporations such as the Post Office, British Gas and the electricity authorities are not controlled by the market places in the same way as many private companies are. Returns are set by government. In a commercial world the ability to borrow would be based on those returns, but government could well argue that to control the level of return without controlling the level of borrowing would be to allow a greater degree of freedom to nationalized industries than could reasonably be permitted.

Leaders of the nationalized industries are clearly worried that the cash limits already set for 1980-81 could be cut back. At the back of their minds must be the fear that they will be so cash constrained that their ability to meet pay demands such as wages will be forced into confrontation with the unions.

Their cash resources were considerably tightened as a result of the failure of the Labour Administration's voluntary 5 per cent pay ceiling which turned into a 15 per cent average pay rise and the following strict limits imposed by the incoming Conservative Administration.

Further tightening could sharply reduce needed investment.

## Decca board recommends acceptance of £65m takeover bid by Rascal Electronics

By Andrew Goudrick-Clarke  
Financial Editor

Rascal Electronics took a significant step towards becoming Britain's number one electronics company yesterday when it secured the agreement of Decca's board to a £65m takeover bid.

Serious discussions between the two had been going on throughout the week and a deal was struck on Thursday. Decca's board headed by 79-year-old Sir Edward Lewis, is recommending shareholders to accept an offer in Rascal ordinary shares.

Holders of ordinary shares in Decca are being offered five Rascal shares for every three they hold; holders of Decca "A" non-voting stock are offered three Rascal for every two shares held. There is also an offer for Decca's preference stock.

The stock market view was that Mr Ernest Harrison, Rascal's chairman, had secured good terms despite Decca's well-documented problems in its consumer products businesses.

Rascal's share price, down to 203p just after the terms became known, pulled back strongly in the afternoon trading session 3p higher on the day at 227p.

In sympathy Decca ordinary gained 5p to 360p and the "A" 3p to 324p.

Mr Harrison has made it clear for several years that, in his view, substantial rationalization was necessary in British electronics, and that Rascal intended to emerge as a major component in a restructured industry.

Last night he said that, following the recent takeover of EMI by Thorn and Rascal's bid for Decca, more rationalization would, in his view, be the right way to go.

"I think there would be a couple more steps" he added.

Stock market speculation in that Ferranti or even Plessey may eventually receive bids.

Rascal has built up an important international position in land-based radio communications, surveillance and monitoring systems. It is a major supplier of military communications systems, and has acquired a position in electronic warfare, avionics and marine-based electronics. Hence the bid for Decca, a leader in marine radar and navigator equipment, was a natural move.

Rascal is buying Decca at around its net worth of about £60m. Others, perhaps GEC (the other main company in Rascal's concept of the British electronics business) might feel that Decca is worth some goodwill.

This possibility may explain why Rascal has avoided any cash element in its bid terms, relying on the view that its shares will stand the strain of the bid. They should give the market's reaction to the price Rascal is paying, but in the event of a counter offer Rascal would have to produce some of its cash.

Decca's losses on consumer products have increased its debt to about £60m. A debt already been made in this by the sale of the music businesses and further cash should come from the eventual disposal of the television interests.

Last night Mr Graham May, deputy chairman of Decca, said that the television business could be worth as much as £20m, though this included stocks representing about two or three months' supply.

Binetone, an electronics distributor with Far East connections, has been suggested as a possible buyer of the television interests, but Mr May said: "I am not aware of any negotiations with Binetone."

Mr May and Sir Edward Lewis have been invited to join Rascal's board if the bid goes through.

## Report on gilt deals to be tabled on Feb 5

The outcome of the Stock Exchange inquiry into gilt transactions carried out by stockbrokers Hedderwick, Stirling, Grumbar and Co will be made known on February 5.

The disciplinary committee has completed its investigation into allegations that the controversial dealings took place in a manner detrimental to the interests of the Stock Exchange and an appeal procedure has been completed.

Recommendations will have to be ratified by the full council.

If it was found that any member had acted in an unethical manner, it is thought that the Stock Exchange would impose a suspension. That could include the suspension or even termination of that person's membership.

**£35m John Brown bid**

Engineering group John Brown has launched a £35m takeover bid for Lesona, an American plastics machinery group. John Brown will raise \$80 (about £39m) in America to finance the acquisition, but its £25m of United Kingdom cash will remain largely untapped.

Financial News, page 20

**Oil futures market**

A formula to proceed with setting up a petroleum product futures market in London has been established by a London commodity exchange ICE working party, says Mr Michael Caban, managing director of Giff and Duffus Chemicals and joint chairman of the ICE working party.

**Dinky, Meccano go on**

Airfix Industries, which has closed its Meccano factory in Liverpool, says it is confident that supply of Meccano and Dinky products will continue to be produced elsewhere. The Liverpool plant would not be reopened but "every effort" was being made to find a purchaser.

**Gold falls \$45**

In much calmer trading conditions the price of gold came down a further \$45 an ounce yesterday to close at \$690, an ounce in London. This is its lowest closing level since January 14. Although a drop of this size in the price would have been considered dramatic some days or weeks ago, it did not reflect any panic selling yesterday. The morning fix was much higher at \$691.5 an ounce, and dealers reported that the price move down after the Swiss market closed at midday.

**Rules for actuaries**

A rule that chief actuaries of insurance companies must be at least 30 years old is contained in new requirements issued yesterday by the Department of Trade. Another insurance rule that appointed actuaries are fellows of the Institute of Actuaries or the Faculty of Actuaries.

**Tougher Bill call**

A call for amendments to tougher Employment Bill was made by Mr Walter Goldsmith, director general of the Institute of Directors.

## Public spending cuts to go on

By Caroline Addison

The Government intends to go on cutting its spending in real terms throughout most of this Parliament, rather than stabilizing it as first planned.

But the cuts for 1980-81 may be smaller than expected. This is because a large part of the savings now being drawn up for the financial year will probably affect only half of the year.

If the link between social security benefits and prices is dropped, or relaxed, as part of the next round of spending cuts the effect in 1980-81 will be much less than in a full year.

The spending in line with inflation would normally only come in November—halfway through the spending year.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, made clear in a letter to the Confederation of British Industry yesterday that the Government was drawing up plans to cut spending in real terms in the years after 1980-81. This will involve huge cuts on the last published plans for these years, which were made by the Labour Government.

The Chancellor was hammering home the message given recently by other ministers, notably Mr John Biffen, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, that the Government was engaged in a drastic and long-term curbing exercise.

Mr Biffen said last weekend that he was looking for cuts of the order of £2,000m by the end of the Parliament. However, this figure could easily be misinterpreted. It refers to cuts from the Tories' original spending plans for 1980-81. The next White Paper, to be published, probably on March 18, will show a smaller figure for 1980-81 and the further reductions in the following years to a level probably about 3 per cent below that at which the Government said last year it wanted to stabilize its spending.

These calculations exclude the possible effects of a cut in Britain's contribution to the EEC.

The next White Paper will probably project a level of spending about 8 or 9 per cent less in real terms by 1982-83 than proposed by the Labour Government.

The spending decisions have to be taken by Cabinet in the coming week.

## No accord on fibre 'flood' curbs

EEC Commissioners and a high level representative of the United States Department of Commerce yesterday failed to find common ground for dealing with the flood of cheap American synthetic fibres to Britain.

Mr Luther Hodges, the American deputy secretary of commerce, denied that the surge of sales to the Community, which in the case of polyester yarns has concentrated on Britain, was the result of lower feedstock prices arising from the American dual pricing policy for oil and gas and restrictions on sales of naphtha to Europe.

He told a press conference in Brussels that the dual pricing system would be withdrawn in September next year and claimed that America's comparative advantage resulted from other factors such as the scale of production and plant efficiency.

The EEC Commission is now faced with the task of drawing up proposals to curb the inflow and these will be put to a meeting of EEC ministers on February 4. The British Government, in particular, wants rapid action by the Community.

EEC sources are not excluding the possibility of some regional safeguard measures being introduced to protect Britain's synthetic fibre industry. The market penetration of American products has been far less pronounced in other member states.

It is felt that a limited proposal of this sort would be less likely to stimulate protectionist feeling on either side of the Atlantic.

## German payments deficit may double to DM 20,000m

From Peter Norman  
Brussels, Jan 25

West Germany's current account balance of payments deficit could double this year to 20,000 marks (about £5,000m) from the 10,000 mark deficit now expected to be announced for 1979.

Although both the Federal Bank in Frankfurt and the government in Bonn agree that this marked deterioration from the 17,500 mark surplus achieved in 1978 should not be over-dramatized, Dr Helmut Schlesinger, the Federal Bank's deputy governor, told business men in Düsseldorf last night that the deficit would have to be reduced in the longer term to keep the Deutschmark strong as a weapon against inflation.

The rise in oil prices, the main reason for Germany's slide into deficit, was particularly problematic for the Bonn government, which is obliged by law to produce its annual report on the economy by the end of this month. There will be more "ifs and buts" than usual and the projections are likely to be presented as targets rather than forecasts.

According to the draft copy of the report, Bonn is hoping that gross national product will rise in real terms by around 2.5 per cent this year after last year's increase of more than 4.5 per cent.

However, economists expect an appreciable slowdown in the second half of the year. Not only is the world economic situation expected to deteriorate, but they point out that the 2.5 per cent growth in the economy was based on a statistical overhang of about 1.5 per cent from last year.

Although international economic trends are looking grim, the authors of the draft report do not anticipate a sharp fall in the rate of corporate investment, which with a real 10 per cent increase last year contributed significantly to West Germany's above average growth.

## Midland set for US bank takeover bid

By Richard Allen

Midland Bank has raised over £21m through the stock market sale of its remaining 10.5 per cent stake in Sedgwick Forbes Bland Payne, the insurance broking group.

The move comes after the sale earlier this week of Midland's remaining stake in Standard Chartered for a total of £18m and suggests that the bank is now poised to make a substantial acquisition in the United States.

There has already been some speculation concerning the Bank of New York, although a return bid for the Chelsea-based Walker, Heller Corporation cannot be ruled out.

Midland pulled out of a \$520m (£229m) bid for Heller last June after apparent attempts to negotiate a lower price.

With the latest share sale Midland has raised almost £50m from the disposal of its stakes in Standard Chartered and Sedgwick since last January. With an extremely strong balance sheet it is thought that the bank could comfortably manage an acquisition costing anything up to £500m.

This would be sufficient to provide Midland with an entrée to the big league of American banking, possibly through the purchase of one of the top 40 groups. A Midland spokesman said last night a United States purchase was "a possibility".

Yesterday's sale, through a placing to institutional investors by stockbrokers Cazenove & Company at around 96p a share, brings the total Midland has received for its original 80 per cent holding in Bland Payne to over £80m. Under the complex merger deal between Sedgwick and Bland Payne, Midland Bank received 88 million shares in the new group and sold off 66 million by way of rights.

In an official statement yesterday Midland said that although it originally intended to hold on to the remaining Sedgwick stake as a trade investment, "the holding of this investment is no longer consistent with the Midland's strategic aims."

## Monopoly referral for Highland whisky bid

By Rosemary Unsworth

The £80m takeover bid for Highland Distilleries by Hiram Walker, the Canadian company, has been referred to the Monopolies Commission by Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Trade.

The move was seen by Mr William Walker, Conservative MP for Perth and East Perth, as a "very disappointing" about the reference. Hiram had received only 5.1 per cent of acceptance which includes the 3,000,000 shares held by a subsidiary before the offer was made.

The Government's intervention in the bid, which is the first to be referred to the Monopolies Commission since the Conservatives came to power, could leave Highland as one of the last few independent whisky groups.

Seagram paid £47m for Glenlivet Distilleries in 1977. Teachers and Long John were taken over by Allied Breweries and Whitebread respectively, while much of the malt whisky industry has undergone rationalization through Scottish and Universal Investment Trust.

As well as the repercussions for whisky exports and implications for Scottish employment.

Highland's share price fell back 27p to 120p on the announcement but recovered to 122p by the close of trading.

Although Hiram Walker withdrew its offer, which was valued at 130p a share, it indicated that it would keep its options open on the bid. It said that it would respond fully to all the Commission's enquiries and would consider its position at the end of the inquiry in the light of the report.

Mr W. S. McCann, of Hiram Walker in Scotland, said that he was "very disappointed" about the reference. Hiram had received only 5.1 per cent of acceptance which includes the 3,000,000 shares held by a subsidiary before the offer was made.

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## Exxon nets profits of over \$4,000m

From Frank Vogel  
Washington, Jan 25

Exxon Corporation, the world's largest private company, today announced that its 1979 net profit rose 55.4 per cent to \$4,295m (\$1,892m). Total sales were up 10 per cent to \$16,000m to \$84,350m (\$37,158m).

Mr C. C. Garvin, company chairman, said "1979 was a good year for Exxon".

Britain was a major source of oil for Exxon's production. Mr Garvin said that a "favourable change in the tax law" in the United Kingdom had greatly helped Exxon. In fact, British legislation last July, which effectively eliminated tax liabilities on increased costs of inventories, allowed Exxon to reduce its United Kingdom tax liability by \$520m (£140m).

Other leading oil companies enjoyed greater profit growth in percentage terms, but the sheer magnitude of Exxon's income, now well over \$4,000m, tends to dwarf that of its rivals.

Mobil's net income last year rose 78 per cent to \$2,010m. Texaco's soared by 106.4 per cent to \$1,760m. Standard Oil of Indiana reported a 40 per cent rise to \$1,500m and Gulf Oil's rose 63 per cent.

Exxon said in its earnings report that the "\$4,600m (\$2,026m) of capital and exploration expenditure made in the North Sea and Malaysia since the mid-sixties have begun to make significant contributions to income."

Exxon appears to be becoming more and more dependent on its foreign activities as the prime source of its earnings growth, and its British operations clearly play a significant role.

### Angola oil price up

Angola's oil ministry has announced it has raised the price of contract crude oil to \$31.79 a barrel from \$25.85, effective from January 1.

### BP Canada to move

BP Canada Inc, Canada's fifth largest oil company is to move its executive offices from Montreal to Toronto. Seventy per cent of BP assets are now held in the western provinces.

## ARBUTHNOT GOVERNMENT SECURITIES TRUST LIMITED

**Quarterly Dividends**

For the added convenience of shareholders in meeting their regular financial commitments, dividends are now paid quarterly. The Directors are pleased to forecast a quarterly dividend of 3½p per share for the year ending 31st July 1980. The second quarterly distribution is payable on the 15th April 1980 for all shares purchased by 31st January 1980.

The Income shareholders receive gross dividends in cash and the Capital shareholders a scrip issue of equal value.

The fund is now valued at over £7 million.

**Daily Valuation and Dealing**

Following the recent heavy demand for Arbuthnot Government Securities Trust the directors will deal in the shares of the company on a daily basis as from Monday 21st January 1980 until Thursday 31st January 1980.

# 13.75%

Estimated Gross Dividend Yield (at the last offer price of 92½p)

\* Valuation as at 24th January 1980

**Particulars of Company**

The Company was formed by Arbuthnot Securities (C.I.) Limited to provide management of British and Irish Government Securities. As the Company is resident outside the United Kingdom and Ireland, interest on the securities in the fund is received without deduction of tax. The Company is liable only to 3300 Jersey Corporation Ltd.

Allen Harvey & Rose Investment Management Limited who have an excellent record in the management of Gilts-pledged funds act as investment advisers.

The Share Capital is divided into Income and Capital shares which are of equal value and are issued and redeemed at prices based on net asset value.

- Distributions are made on 15th January, 15th April, 15th July and 15th October.
- Capital shares may not be held by residents of the United Kingdom or Jersey.
- The Income and Capital Shares are listed on The Stock Exchange, London.

For copies of the Company's prospectus (on the terms of which alone application for shares will be considered) please send the coupon to: Arbuthnot Securities (C.I.) Limited, PO Box 284, Rutland House, Pitt Street, St. Helier, Jersey, Channel Islands. Tel: Jersey (0534) 76077.

Please send me a copy of the Company's prospectus together with the latest accounts.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

## ARBUTHNOT

Issued by Arbuthnot Securities Limited (Licensed Dealers in Securities).

## PRICE CHANGES

Rises					
Beralt Tin	7p to 62p	S A Land	50c to 825c		
Brookfield	28c to 835c	Stocks J	14p to 100p		
Lea Samarra	25p to 406p	Viktorien	25c to 330c		
Nitrate Explor	40p to 390p	W Rand Cons	25c to 750c		
	25p to 525p	W Rand Cons	22p to 350p		

Falls					
Audiometric	2p to 5p	Invergarda	18p to 218p		
Brown & Jackson	10p to 210p	Marinevale	15c to 425c		
Brown J	7p to 59p	Switzerland	18p to 205p		
Elburg Gold	30c to 580c	Sotheby P.E.	15p to 470p		
Highland Dist	26p to 22p	Vesper	12p to 176p		

## THE POUND

	Bank	Bank		Bank	Bank
	buys	sells		buys	sells
Australia \$	2.11	2.07	Norway Kr	11.55	11.65
Austria Sch	29.75	27.75	Portugal Esc	119.00	112.50
Belgium Fr	68.25	64.75	South Africa Rand	2.02	157.00
Canada \$	2.69	2.62	Spain Ptas	167.00	150.00
Denmark Kr	12.77	12.22	Sweden Kr	9.78	9.38
Finland Mk	8.70	8.30	Switzerland Fr	3.84	3.82
France Fr	9.52	9.12	USA \$	2.23	2.27
Germany DM	4.12	3.90	Yugoslavia Dnr	53.00	49.00
Greece Dr	101.00	96.00			
Hongkong \$	11.32	10.72			
Italy Lire	1990.00	1895.00			
Japan Yen	567.00	542.00			
Netherlands Gld	4.55	4.32			

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied upon request. Exchange rates apply to foreign currency cheques and other foreign currency business.







EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

## Season tickets

## Company credit for the rail commuter

The latest swing of 20 per cent increase in commuter train fares is another blow for London's estimated 400,000 commuters—and there is little they can do about it.

They have to travel to work and now they will pay perhaps £500 a year in fares in order to do so. This has to come out of their post-tax income.

But if one takes an average commuter journey, from Sevenoaks, Kent, to London, there are no fewer than six methods of paying for the daily return trip, some of which provide large savings over the standard fare.

An ordinary second-class return now costs £3.38—that is £811 a year for 48 weeks. But that, of course, is not the way to do things. The man who

can start his journey after 9.30 am and fit his work to the restrictions which surround the use of the off-peak ticket, need pay only £1.85 a day. This amounts to £444 a year and is the cheapest way of all to pay for the trip.

This is an excellent argument for more "flexi-time" or staggered hours working, but unfortunately most people as yet work a normal 9 to 5 day. For them the choice must be the season ticket, that colour-coded piece of paste-board, which by the way is not transferable (and there are heavy fines for misusing it).

The tariff for season tickets varies according to the period which they cover. For someone travelling from Sevenoaks, a weekly season costs £13.30, or £559.40 a year; a monthly season is £50.30 (£559.30 a year); a quarterly £146.50 (roughly



The morning rush at Waterloo Station yesterday. London's commuters have had to cope with frequent price increases and need to make the most of the cheap day return and season ticket facilities available.

£537 a year) and a yearly £528. This compares with £811 a year when paying the full ordinary fare.

The yearly season ticket obviously represents a large saving, but you need to be able to lay your hands on the cash to pay for it in the first place. That is a snag. If you were, for instance, to take out a personal loan to cover the sum at 11.5 per cent flat (22.53 per cent true) over a year from the bank, the yearly season ticket would attract £60.72 interest and the total cost would be more than when buying your ticket monthly.

What you must look for is a fairly godmother prepared to advance the money either at a low interest rate or free of interest—and they do exist among

the more enlightened employers both large and small.

The most common formula is when companies advance the annual cost of a season ticket, for rain or shine, interest-free, to any staff member who has been with them for more than six months. The repayment money is then deducted in 12 equal monthly instalments from the employee's salary cheque.

The system described by the Inland Revenue as a beneficial loan, is therefore quite simple. The great majority of the loans are interest-free and are offered both by large and small companies as a way of easing their staffs' tax burden.

Such loans can, however, attract tax. People earning under £8,500 need not worry, but the higher wage earners—those over £8,500 a year—

will be subject to tax on the benefit (see the taxation article on the facing page).

The tax is worked out by taking the cost of the loan, if it is at a low rate of interest, or the "non-cost" if it is interest-free, and subtracting that from the amount the loan would have cost if borrowed at the Inland Revenue's official rate of 9 per cent.

Income tax is payable at present on half that difference, but from next April on the difference itself. Should this benefit come to less than £50 it is disregarded for tax purposes.

For the traveller from Sevenoaks, the interest-free loan of £528 which he must repay for his annual season ticket would attract £47.52 at the "official" 9 per cent. As he is under the

£50 limit, he can disregard the figure from the tax point of view, whatever he earns.

In fact, a loan from an employer—the cost of the annual ticket—would have to exceed £555.50 before the higher wage earner would be liable for income tax, and even then the liability would be small.

If your employer therefore is one of those who has not yet introduced a loan scheme for fares—and such schemes have spread rapidly over the past four years—why not suggest it. That is, unless you live close enough to walk to work or fancy the awesome alternative of moving further into town or are one of those railway employees who travel free.

Roger Beard

## SEVENOAKS-LONDON FARE COSTS

Second class ticket	Rate	Cost per year*
Ordinary return	£3.38	£811.20
Weekly season	13.30	638.40
Monthly season	50.30	559.40
Quarterly season	146.50	537.00
Annual season	528.00	528.00
Off-peak cheap day return	1.85	444.00†

\* Assuming five return trips a week for 48 weeks.

† Subject to travel restrictions during peak periods.

## Building societies

## Guaranteed home loans

Not many years ago home loan "sharks" used to con young couples into taking out expensive life assurance policies which, they were told, would ensure them a mortgage when they wanted to buy a house. It was so much nonsense of course; the only people who can promise a building society loan in the future are building society branch managers and even they usually find it prudent to avoid such a firm commitment.

But Bradford & Bingley Building Society duly understand that many prospective homebuyers would love to have such an assurance. It has just launched a novel and welcome Homebuilder Account which guarantees a mortgage after two years equal to four times the balance in the account.

The minimum initial investment is £500 and thereafter regular monthly investments of between £80 to £250 are required. The snag is that instead of earning 10.5 per cent, 11.5 per cent gross, these savings only attract interest of 7 per cent (10 per cent gross).

The level of mortgage guaranteed will be quite large indeed, at the top end of the savings scale it could

actually exceed the special advance limit of £25,000. A couple hoping to embark upon home ownership in two years' time with £500 to start a Homebuilder account and prepared to save £100 a month know that they will be able to borrow more than £11,000—the size of the present average advance. A saving of £200 a month means that a home loan of £22,884 will be forthcoming two years later.

The scheme is fairly flexible. The initial investment is not restricted to £500; whatever amount you start with will be included in the total for determining the amount lent. Nor are there any strict rules about the sum saved monthly, provided that it is at least £80 and not more than £250. A windfall in excess of £250 would be carried forward to the next month.

The doors open for investors in this scheme on February 1 and it will be interesting to monitor the response. Will prospective homebuyers be willing to sacrifice the loss of interest in return for the guaranteed future loan? My guess is that the "loss" of one-third of the interest (the rate on Homebuilder accounts is variable, but will never be less than two-thirds the prevailing share rate) will be considered only a small penalty.

Of course the deal is attractive for the Bradford & Bingley too. Most societies pay extra to induce money to remain for as much as two years and it is getting away with paying comfortably below the odds. But it is also introducing an Extra Income Account for those to whom interest is paramount.

Another nearly new idea in the building society world came from the Alliance Building Society which is making a limited issue of a new form of investment which offers a fixed rate of interest guaranteed not to change before the end of 1980.

The Alliance Fixed Rate Bond, the first of its kind from a major building society, offers interest at 11.5 per cent, equivalent to 16.43 per cent for basic rate taxpayers. Whoever happens to building society interest rates in the course of this year, the return on the bond will not change.

The money is tied in, however, until the end of the year, when investors will be given the option of converting to a new fixed interest rate. The minimum investment is £500 and the maximum £15,000.

MS

## Grouse

What is the Government going to do about that virtually inflation-proofed tax, stamp duty? In 1978-79 the yield from stamp duty was £120m; this year, the estimated revenue will be about £225m—all because of soaring house prices.

It is bad enough for first-time buyers to have to compete with the inexorable rise in house prices and higher mortgage interest charges without having to fork out for this inequitable rubber stamp—quite literally—of a tax.

The worst aspect is that it is precisely those rising prices which are benefiting the Revenue which is dragging more and more people into this tax net. The threshold for charging stamp duty at the lowest rate is £15,000—whereas the average national price of houses is now over £22,000. Even in regions such as Yorkshire, Humberside and Wales, where house prices have lagged behind, the average price is now over £15,000.

At the very least the threshold level should be raised. The Centre for Environmental Studies has recently suggested a starting-off point of £20,000, but arguably even this is too low, and would still catch more people than were ever intended.

There is a strong case for tying the stamp duty threshold to the national average price of houses and therefore indexing it so that it rises in line with house prices.

It seems nonsensical for the Government to pity the plight of first-time buyers and not take at least the one simple step on hand to alleviate it. Every little helps; every housebuyer will confirm.

## GILTS

With Minimum Lending Rate at its present all-time high of 17%, an outstanding opportunity exists to invest in gilt-edged stocks to achieve a high rate of interest immediately and anticipate substantial capital growth when interest rates fall.

How the Gilt Market works  
Gilt-edged stocks represent loans raised by the Government to help finance its expenditure. Repayment is normally guaranteed on a specific date and interest is fixed for the duration of the loan.

Such stocks are issued at frequent intervals and are open to any investor with money to lend (you can even subscribe at your local Post Office). However, over the years a complex Gilt Market has grown up, where professional traders buy and sell stocks constantly with an eye to their capital appreciation.

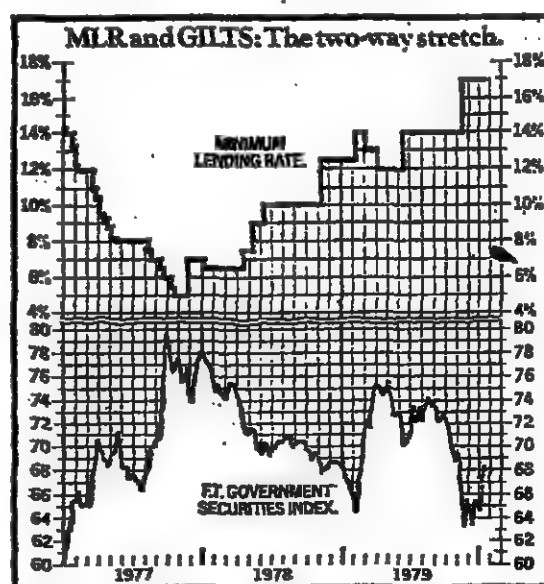
This is because the capital values of gilts respond directly to changes in the general level of interest rates. When interest rates are high, as they are today, gilt prices are low but when interest rates fall, gilt prices rise.

To give a very simple example, if the general level of long term interest rates halves, then the capital value of long dated gilts would almost double.

The recent history of gilts  
The past 3 years have been a particularly eventful time in the Gilt Market. Interest rates have fluctuated violently and as a result capital values have risen and fallen sharply over short periods of time. (See graph).

With MLR at a record 17%, it is generally forecast that interest rates will start to fall during 1980, producing substantial capital gains for investors entering the Gilt Market soon. Over the long-term, the 'ups and downs' of the British and world economies will continue to produce frequent changes in interest rates, consequently creating frequent opportunities to enhance high levels of income with short-term capital gains.

The sensible way in  
Due to the extreme complexity of the Gilt Market, it is generally acknowledged that the most effective way for the private investor to profit from it is through a professionally managed gilt portfolio.



(Reproduced by kind permission of the Sunday Telegraph)

This graph clearly illustrates how fluctuating interest rates over the past 3 years have produced dramatic changes in the value of gilts.

THE VANBRUGH FIXED INTEREST FUND is an actively managed portfolio of gilt-edged stocks and deposits in short-term money markets, designed to enable the private investor to obtain significantly better returns than from directly held gilt-edged or other fixed interest investments such as local authority loans.

The Fund is managed by the Prudential, the country's largest investing institution and acknowledged specialists in this highly technical market. The table following shows how through expert professional management the Fund has achieved, since its inception on

23rd September 1974 up to 18th January 1980, much better results than the Gilt Market as a whole or other forms of interest bearing investments, such as a building society.

GILTS FTA Govt. All Stocks Index (adjusted to include net reinvested income)	+54.5%
BUILDING SOCIETY Including net reinvested interest*	+45.2%
VANBRUGH FIXED INTEREST FUND	+82.7%

\*B.S.A. recommended rates for paid-up share accounts

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## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## John Brown in £35m bid for US machinery group

By Philip Robinson

Engineering giant John Brown launched a surprise £35m takeover bid for American plastics and textile machinery group Leesona Corporation yesterday, designed to provide the United Kingdom group with its long-awaited fourth arm.

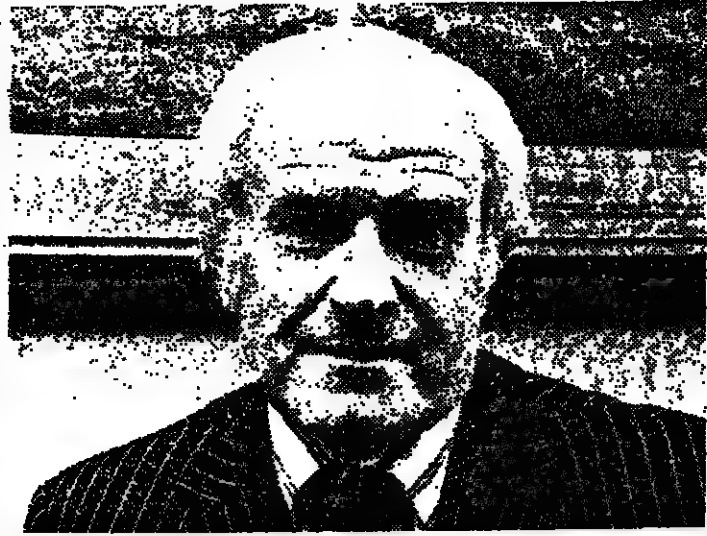
The group unveiled the bid as it gave its own shareholders a 20 per cent interim dividend increase and said that group profits for the year are likely to fall £10m to £18m. The news knocked 10p from the share price which later rallied to be 7p down on the day at 59p.

John Brown, whose process plant and gas turbine operations have come under increased competition this year is offering Leesona shareholders 540 a share, matching the American group's asset value, and will be raising \$90m on a floating rate term loan, the details of which will be disclosed to shareholders in the next few days.

The offer compares with a Leesona price of \$32 at suspension but a price before the shares were chased up by speculative demand of \$25. At the offer price this gives Leesona an exit p/e ratio of 10. But John Brown's offer could spark a bid battle in the United States.

From his head office in Warwick, Rhode Island, Leesona's President and Chief Executive Mr Robert G. Page said: "We have had the group under review in the past and one in the past six months from a Swiss bank. Walco's reaction to the Brown bid has not yet been tested."

Leesona's total debt is put by Mr Page at \$20m against shareholders' funds of \$60m. Pre-tax



Mr J. R. Mayhew-Sanders, chairman of John Brown.

profits in 1978 were around \$10m which were forecast to rise last year to \$14m.

The American group has been looking for a suitor for some time. Mr Page said they asked J. Henry Schroder Wagg, Brown's merchant bankers, to sound out United Kingdom companies about taking an equity stake and from this, John Brown which already has close trading links, began discussions.

Mr Page said: "John Brown can offer us much broader markets in Red China, South Africa and Australia." For its money, John Brown says it is getting one of the world leaders in plastics machinery, an industry it has admitted it cannot get right in the United Kingdom.

Brown's chairman, Mr John Mayhew-Sanders, said: "If we succeed, we will be getting a company which has high technology and a profitably well-run business. On completion, we intend to create a Leesona division of John Brown managed from Warwick and include all existing plastics machinery and paper converting interest in a new division."

The new group would bring the turnover from American offshoots to around \$300m. But one of its other United States companies, Crawford and Russell, bought for \$25 million last March, has after a good start suffered postponed and canceled orders which will bring its profit contribution significantly lower than last year.

## Stock markets

## Equities firm as account closes 4pc higher

Equities ended the account on a firm note yesterday, despite further bleak news from the industrial front.

Gilt, however, were easier; although more stable, as the market made some attempt to digest the previous day's glut on new cap issues.

Equities initially made a quiet start following the announcement from John Brown of a £35m United States acquisition, combined with the forecast of profits considerably less than had earlier been expected.

But after the initial shock, they gradually went better as institutional buyers decided to test the water.

Hope that the steel talks at BSC might reach some settlement provided a further fillet so that by lunch-time most shares had regained earlier losses and had begun to press ahead.

This coincided with the long-awaited release of bid terms for Decca from Rascal which received mixed feeling from most dealers.

Bear-closing became another ingredient to help things along so that by the close the FT Index was at its highest point of the day, being 3.7 up at 452.4, after opening 3.4 off. This meant a rise on the account of 17.0 or 4 per cent.

Gold shares were relatively quiet, along with the bullion price, which closed \$45 off at \$660.

Dealers reported very little trading among gilts, where brokers were busy with the new "taps" they had acquired the day before. As a result, in long falls of between 1 and 2 1/2 were reported, while the new Treasury 12 per cent A 1980-4 rose £1 off at £241. In shorts, the falls ranged from £2 to £4 with the new Exchequer 13 1/2 per cent 1983 £3/16 lower at £59-11/16.

Leading industrials showed small rises throughout the list, most finishing at the top. Glaxo improved 5p to 483p, with gains of 4p in Unilever at 456p and Becton at 129p. Rises of one or two pence were noted in ICI at 376p, Fisons at 289p and Hawker Siddeley at 192p.

Read-International was active ahead of next week's figures, rising 7p to 195p, but BAT's also reporting next week, were unchanged at 265p.

The early announcement from John Brown that profits were going to be substantially less than originally estimated, combined with news that it has bid £35m for the Leesona Corporation, left the shares 7p lower at 59p, after 57p.

In the meantime, the long-awaited terms for Decca left the shares 5p up in the ordinary at 360p and 3p stronger in the "A" at 324p.

But it had an adverse effect on Rascal which reacted 19p to 205p, before recovering to finish 3p up on the day at 227p. After some thought, the market decided that Sir Edward Lewis had worked out favourable terms for Decca shareholders.

Elsewhere in electricals, GEC, still regarded as a possible rival for Decca, firmed up to 335p. But Murdoch still feeling from poor figures earlier this week fell a further 18p to 205p.

Business proved to be brisk among television shares where the early announcement of programmes was announced earlier. HTV rose 5p to 106p, LWT 2p to 107p and Associated Communications 1p to 111p.

Report of increased spending on defence provided a bright spot for companies specialising in the field with Westland 4 1/2 up at 75p and United Scientific 1 1/2 better at 438p.

However, news that the Hiram Walker bid for Highland Distillers had been referred to the Monopolies Commission had an adverse effect on the distillers sector. Highland themselves, were 16p lower at 122p, while Invergordon dipped 18p to 218p, closely followed by Tomatin 9p to 192p and Arthur Bell 5p to 134p.

Profit-taking clipped 17p from Sotby Park Bernet at 470p and Christie International 4p at 164p.

Blue Circle regained earlier losses, rising 8p to 278p, but Aramite Slanks, to which it has made an agreed bid, firmed up to 91 1/2p. Bid hopes were responsible for a 5p rise at Anderson Strathclyde and a bid denial from Joseph Stocks only served to push the shares 14p higher at 100p. Press comment was good for a 20p rise at 77p in a thin market in Samantha.

Observers of Siebens felt that there is still more to go for. Talk of £10-a-share bid from a United States company does not now seem so strange. At present, most fingers point to Marathon, the operator of the Brae Field, in which Siebens holds 4 per cent. The shares rose 54p to 656p yesterday.

while recent bumper profits provided rises 2p to 82p in Ferguson Industrial and 9p to 136p in Australian Agriculture.

Institutional buying resulted in a firm spot among stores. New-time buying boosted Grattan which recovered 4p to 108p. Bid favourites House of Fraser advanced 7p to 145p and Debenhams 2p to 81p, while rises of 4p were registered in Boots at 165p and GUS "A" at 402p.

Burton ord. were unchanged.

at 265p while the "A" rose 2p to 256p. On Monday, the "A" shares merge with the ordinary, while at the same time the ordinary go ex-script, at 1-for-7.

Second-liners among the oils were strong after hours, with Lamsa improving 25p to 406p, following the increased stake by Cawoods, while Siebens boosted by bid rumours leapt 54p to 656p. Among the majors BP was 4p off at 336p while Shell rose 10p at 342p.

Gold shares finished the day mostly easier along with the gold price after a firm start to trading.

The Gold Share Index finished 4.2 off at 324. Anglo American Gold fell 4p to 88 1/2p, along with West Driefontein, \$1 to \$78 1/2 and Venterspot \$3 to \$133. Vaal Reefs held firm at \$68 as did Middle Wits, at the cheaper end, at 380 cents.

Among London financials, RTZ climbed 15p to 402p. Selection Trust, 15p to 658p, while CWS Gold remained firm at 380p. In platinum, Rustenburg improved 8p to 272p.

Progrès, were, lower, with WPP 5p higher at 184p. Of Portland 5p better at 223p. Land Securities 7p advanced at 287p, while Hamson "A" leapt 20p to 825p.

In insurance, reports that Midland Bank had placed the remainder of its stake in Sedgwick Forbes saw a 2p fall to 97p in the latter. Elsewhere among the composites, Commercial Union firmed 1p to 146p and GRE improved 2p to 250p.

Equities closed on January 24, 1979, at 452.4 (17.23p gains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were, RTZ, Lamsa, ICI, Rank, Premier, CWS, Shell, Lomro, Western Mining, Becton and Unilever.

## Latest results

Company	Sales	Profit	Earnings	Div	Paid	Year's
£m	£m	£m	per share	pence	div	total
Int'l Fin	12.1(15.7)	0.01(0.18)	1.06(1.56)	(—)	(—)	(—)
Audiomatic (I)	15.32(14.7)	1.38(3.73)	3.74(19.46)	6c(7)	7c(7)	7c(7)
Assam Invest	17.9(17.6)	1.1(1.1)	(—)	2.5(2.36)	8/4	(—)
John Brown (I)	10.7(9.4)	0.15(0.07)	4.9(2.3)	1.25(1.25)	10/3	1.25(1.25)
Glaxo Lawrence (I)	10.7(9.4)	0.15(0.07)	4.9(2.3)	1.25(1.25)	10/3	1.25(1.25)
Hallite Hides (I)	2.96(3.04)	0.54(0.16)	7.6(4.2)	2.25(2.15)	29/3	19.2(19.4)
Heavies Brew (I)	2.96(3.04)	0.54(0.16)	7.6(4.2)	2.25(2.15)	29/3	19.2(19.4)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pensioner shares. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. A Adjusted for scrip and share split. B Loss. C For 18 months.

## J &amp; J Dyson holds firm thanks to exports

By Alison Mitchell

Dunlop by exports and a recent diversification into ceramics, refractories, manufacturer J. & J. Dyson is weathering the downturn in the steel industry and, in the first half of the current year, managed to maintain profits at last year's level.

In the six months to September 30, 1978, the group turned in £1.1m pre-tax on turnover only slightly higher at £18m.

And chairman Mr Gerald Lomas reports that the full-year total will probably equal last time's £12m.

However, the steel strike is already posing problems. The chairman says that the stocks are building up on the refractories side as the group keeps on its workers despite the fact

that British Steel is not buying any supplies. However, he warns, that this cannot go on indefinitely, and unless there is an early settlement some layoffs or redundancies must inevitably follow.

Bank borrowings are rising to finance the stock holding, though Mr Lomas will give no indication as to the current level. At the end of the last financial year net borrowings, as a percentage of shareholdings funds, amounted to 16 per cent.

The interim dividend has been raised by 10p per cent to 3.5p and the chairman forecasts a similar final payment taking the year's total to 7.1p. At that level the shares, unchanged at 46p yesterday, yield a prospective 15.4 per cent.

## Plea to local authorities

A further call for simpler and better presentation of local authority spending has come from the accountancy profession.

Turcell, a partner in the firm of Robson Rhodes, and it follows a response from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales to a con-

sultation document from the Department of the Environment about the publication of financial information by local government.

"The priorities at the present should be to improve and simplify the presentation of financial information in a format to be used by all local authorities."

## Texaco doubles income in year

White Plains, NY—Texaco Inc.—reports more than doubled consolidated worldwide net income for 1978 of \$1,759m or \$6.48 per share. Net income for 1978 was \$852.46m, or \$3.14 per share. Results for 1979 included foreign currency translation gains of \$52.1m, compared with losses of \$105.3m for 1978.

Net income for the fourth quarter of 1979 was \$533.92m, or \$1.97 per share. Fourth-quarter net income in 1978 reached \$338.26m (\$1.21).

Fourth-quarter 1979 results included foreign currency translation gains of \$38.1m, compared with losses of \$12.2m for the 1978 period.

Net income attributable to operations in the United States for 1979 was about \$67.2m. This represented an increase of \$257.8m, or 61.9 per cent over 1978.

## Superior Oil

Houston—Superior Oil Co is proceeding to acquire all the shares of Canadian Superior Oil held by shareholders who did not accept Superior's offer last September. The offer expired on January 2 and under it 90 per cent of Canadian Superior's shares not previously held by Superior or its associates or affiliates were acquired. Under Canadian law this enables Superior to acquire the rest of the shares.—A.P.—Dow Jones.

## Sanyo Electric

Tokyo—Sanyo Electric expects its after-tax profit for the 1980 business year ending next November to increase by about 32 per cent to 200m yen from 151.5bn last year, on sales of 670bn yen, up from 584.06bn. The anticipated rise follows increased sales of audio and home-heating equipment, at home and improved export profitability following the yen's depreciation against the dollar.—Reuters.

## Messina

Hannover—Messina (Transvaal) Development expects improved trading results for the year ending September 30, the chairman Mr Harold P. Grenfell said. He told the annual meeting

that prospects for higher copper prices are good and combined with the turnaround in the outlook for the motor industry, which is now in an upward phase, profit should be higher than the pre-tax level of \$15.97m in the year ended September 30.

Retail sales in the company's Tasman vehicle division were 10 per cent up in the first quarter.—Reuters.

## Atlantic Richfield

Los Angeles—Boosted by a steady, higher flow of oil from Alaska's North Slope, better than expected chemical earnings and improved operations from its Anaconda Co subsid-

## International

ary, Atlantic Richfield Co expects to report that earnings per share for 1979 topped analysts' most optimistic estimates of \$9.25 a share. Mr Thornton F. Bradshaw, president, told AP-Dow Jones.

In 1978, ARC reported net income of \$804.3m, or \$6.60 a share, on revenue of \$12.74m. Mr Thornton Bradshaw said revenue for the latest year would be in the range of \$15,000m to \$16,000m.

## Industria Pirelli

Milan—Industria Pirelli SPA sales rose 25 per cent in 1979, to 2,200 billion lire—and the company hopes that 1979 losses will be below the 28.7 billion lire deficit made in 1978. Industria Pirelli, in which Dunlop Holdings of the UK has a minority stake, is the main Italian industrial subsidiary of Pirelli SPA. Its 1978 net loss was reduced to 2.2 billion lire by extraordinary gains from the sale of its Milan office building which it is leaving this month.—Reuters.

## Singer loss

New York—Singer's 1979 loss was due to a \$130m provision established in the third quarter to cover the costs of a programme to restructure its North American and European sewing

## MacKinnon sinks to loss after change in fashion

MacKinnon of Scotland, the Courbridge knitwear manufacturer, plunged into losses of £138,000 in the year to October 31. The result compared with pre-tax profits of £401,000 in the previous 12 months.

Yesterday, the group gave no explanation for the autumn. However, at the interim stage, when losses amounted to £37,000, the chairman, Mr Kenneth H. MacKinnon blamed fashion changes for the poor performance.

He said that as a Scotland wool producer MacKinnon had been hit by the change in demand towards lamb's wool goods and was also facing intense competition from cheap imports.

However, Mr MacKinnon added that the expected second-half of the year to show a slight improvement.

The year-end loss is reduced to £70,000 as a result of a tax credit of £67,000 to be lost per share of 4.09p compared with previous earnings of 6.85p.

The final dividend has been passed. Last year the group paid a total of 2.6p gross.

The group states that reserves have been increased by £150,000 by a prior year adjustment

## Martin enters new decade with confidence

With a good record of progress under its belt, Martin, the Newsagent is looking forward confidently to the 1980s.

In his annual report, the chairman, Mr J. B. H. Martin, explains that expansion in the current year, as compared with the previous year, was the purchase of established stores, the fitting out of some 12 new sites and the redevelopment of six existing branches. The sale of uneconomic branches is continuing.

Total sales for the 10 weeks to December 9 last, show a rise of 13 per cent over the similar period last year. In 1978-79, pre-tax profits reached a record £3.36m on sales of £85.93m.

## Share stake changes

at Lesney

Lesney Products said that Mr K. E. Smith, as a result of an additional interest acquired as trustee, in 412,699 ordinary shares on January 23, is now interested in 2,246 ordinary shares. Mr S. B. Quin on January 23 ceased to be interested in 377,779 shares and is now interested in 4,641m ordinary and 1m deferred ordinary shares.

On January 23, Mr N. V. Smith ceased to be interested in 412,699 ordinary shares and is now interested in 5,907m shares and 1m deferred ordinary. Mr J. C. Gooch, as a result of an additional interest in 377,779 shares acquired as trustee on January 23, is now interested in 2,278m shares.

The consideration is to be the issue of 525,000 new ordinary shares worth some £142,000. These will not rank for the 1979 final dividend. Net assets of PLC are about \$100,000.

## Cray Electronics

buys freehold

Cray Electronics has exchanged contracts for the purchase of the freehold of its factory site at Gosport. A subsidiary has occupied the site on a leasehold basis for many years.

The consideration is £643,000, of which £124,500 is not payable until February, 1983.

A further £64,300 is to be paid on completion of the £454,200 on completion on February 29. This will be financed primarily by a £425,000 loan from ICF at 14 1/2 per cent for

13 years. And £93,500 will be provided from the group's own resources.

## MALAYSIAN TIN

In half-year to Sept 30, pre-tax profits of Malaysian Tin rose £22,000 to £49,000. Board reports that it is unlikely it will be possible to maintain company's mining income in future years.

## MACARTHUR

Sales for half-year to Oct 31 rose by 27 per cent to £70.7m. Board expects second-half earnings will be little more than first. Interim dividend, gross, 2.85p (2.14p).

## GREYCOAT ESTATES

Turnover for six months to September 30 up from £517,000 to £570,000. Interim dividend, gross, 2.85p (2.14p).

## OLYMPIA (REDACRE)

Turnover for 1979 £2.86m (£2.0m). Net profit £53,000 (£139,000). EPS 2.67p (6.55p). Dividend 1.69p (same).

## ABBEY US 45 PC

Pre-tax profit of this Dublin-based group makes half its earnings from UK house-building, plant hire and property development interests. EPS 1.135m for six months to October 31.

## W. G. ALLEN &amp; SONS

Sales for half-year to September 30, £3.85m (£3.99m). Pre-tax profit £212,000 (£279,000). Interim dividend, 1.14p gross (1.19p). Board believes results for year should stand comparison with those of last year.

## PILKINGTON BROTHERS

Sir Alastair Pilkington, director, has subscribed for 4,250 shares under rights issue.

## EURT EOUTLON

Turnover for half year to September 30, £22.24m (£19.14m).

## PMA disposes of Skelham for £936,000

PMA Holdings has disposed of Skelham Ltd to South Side Sawmills, a distributor of kitchen and bathroom furniture, based in Glasgow.

The aggregate cash consideration, including repayment of inter-group indebtedness, was £936,000, of which £906,200 was paid on completion.

The net assets of Skelham at July 27 last were £679,000 and the net profit before tax of Skelham for the year, 1978-79, was £127,000.

The proceeds of the disposal will be used to reduce the PMA's medium-term loans and the elimination of "Norfolk's" overdraft, will result in an overall reduction of group borrowings of about £143m.

## US acquisition for Phicom

Phicom has agreed to acquire the whole of the issued share capital of Drillick Lamanna Corporation, which makes products for the data communications industry and is based in New Jersey, United States.

The consideration is to be the issue of 525,000 new ordinary shares worth some £142,000. These will not rank for the 1979 final dividend. Net assets of PLC are about \$100,000.

## Glanfield Lawrence

results double

More than doubled profits are reported for the year to Sept 30 by Glanfield Lawrence, the motor vehicle distributors and car dealers. On turnover only 14 per cent lower at £10.7m, pre-tax profits climbed from £71,000 to £156,000—the second highest ever. With earnings per share also more than doubled—from 2.3p to 4.9p—the board is meeting the dividend at 1.78p gross.

But it warns that the current year has started slowly, with sales at lower levels and high

interest rates and wage settlements. As well as the motor side, the group covers precision engineers, agricultural machinery importing, hire purchase finance and car hire.

However, the directors have undertaken to discount the adverse impact on the results of the extended accounting period in determining their dividend recommendation and have accordingly only taken into consideration the operating surplus for the 13-month period ended June 30, 1979, compared with £3.56m for the year ended December 31, 1977.

## PROCTER AND GAMBLE

rise by 13 pc

Cincinnati—The Procter and Gamble Company have announced sales and earnings for the six and three months ended December 31, 1979.

Net earnings for the first six months of the year amounted to \$333.33m an increase of 13 per cent over the same six months in 1978. Earnings per share were \$4.02 compared with \$3.56 for the previous period.

Worldwide net sales were \$5,268m, an increase of 17 per cent over the same period.

For the October-December period—the second quarter of P and G's fiscal year—net earnings amounted to \$146.66m, an increase of 15 per cent over the second half of the year ago. Earnings per share were \$4.77 compared with \$4.14 for the same period last year. Worldwide net sales were \$5,268m, an increase of 17 per cent over the same period.

## CONFEDERATION LIFE

United Kingdom organization of Confederation Life Insurance (of Canada) reports 1979 results: new annual premiums, £4.47m; 22 per cent increase on 1978 premiums, £1.71m, up 28 per cent.

## REDMAN HEENAN

Mr V. J. O'Keefe, Redman Heenan International's chief executive has acquired 9,000 shares at 63p. Mr N. Davis, director of a subsidiary, has acquired 13,140 shares at 49p.

## WEARWELL

Wearwell's rights issue has now increased its holding of ordinary shares in Wearwell to 1.76m shares (8.1 per cent).

## DEANSON (HOLDINGS)

Mr D. M. Dean, the chairman, reports in his annual statement that the steps taken in all group departments have strengthened the company and it should be able to withstand more problems that might arise in the foreseeable future.

TELBEDE RAGALLA INV

Unconditional offer on behalf of Messrs A. H



## MARKET REPORTS

## France increases diamond purchases

By Michael Prest

Figures from the Antwerp Diamond Office indicate that French and Swiss investment in good quality polished stones rose substantially last year. Imports from Belgium into both countries rose by about 50 per cent.

Antwerp is the chief European centre for cutting and polishing rough stones. The rough stones are mainly imported from London where the Central Selling Organisation, the marketing arm of De Beers, has its European headquarters and holds its "rights" or sales. The Diamond Office is a government body which monitors all imports into Belgium.

France bought stones worth \$215m last year compared with \$148m in 1978. But the number

## Mining

of cars fell from 140,000 to 131,000, reflecting both the higher price of diamonds and the concentration on better stones. This makes France the world's biggest purchaser of polished diamonds in the world.

Imports into Switzerland came to \$200m, up \$64m. Carats, which is reported to show a preference for smaller stones, was 297,000 instead of 146,000. The country is now the fourth biggest importer.

Much of the largest buyer is still the United States, although sales fell slightly from \$406m to \$383m. There was a sharp fall in the number of cars bought from 892,000 to 691,000. Hongkong, the centre for Asia, is the second largest buyer at \$300m, very little less than in 1978.

British purchases were worth \$166m compared with \$175m, or 271,000 cars instead of 283,000, putting it in fifth position.

## Higher dividend at Gold Fields

Gold Fields of South Africa, the mines holding company, recorded a profit of \$44.7m (£24m) for the six months to the end of December. Profits for the same period of 1978 were \$31.6m. A dividend of 130 cents has been declared against 70 cents in 1978.

At this rate GFSA will record profits for the whole year considerably in excess of the \$65.5m earned in 1978. If the gold price in the second half is much higher on average, income from the mines could reach \$100m for the 12 months.

GFSA's main shareholder is Consolidated Gold Fields, which takes 46 per cent of the \$43.3m profit attributable to shareholders.

## Metal prices boost North Broken Hill

North Broken Hill Holdings, the Australian mining and investment company, is the latest beneficiary of higher metal prices and the rise in Australian stock markets. Pre-tax profits from mining for the six months to the end of December were \$42.8m (£14m) against \$46.9m for the same period of last year.

If investment income is included, the estimated consolidated net profit before an extraordinary item was \$420.4m, some two and a half

## Wall Street

New York, Jan. 25.—Stock prices retraced this morning in heavy trading on profit-taking and concern about interest rates and inflation. The Dow Jones industrial average slipped five points and declined led advances better than two-to-one.

Analysts said money supply news on Thursday heightened concern that the Federal Reserve might move to tighten credit further and Citibank raised its prime rate to 15 1/2 per cent from 15 per cent, moving back into line with most major banks.

News that consumer prices rose 1.2 per cent in December was in line with expectations but still discouraging, they said.

## Gold trades uneasily

New York, Jan. 25.—GOLD was erratic, trading in a narrow range, but futures contracts were up, with March 1980 contracts at \$370.00, up \$10.00 from \$360.00. The spot price was \$368.00, up \$10.00 from \$358.00.

COMEX SILVER futures, after a sharp rise in early trading, fell to \$10.00, down \$0.10 from \$10.10. The spot price was \$10.00, down \$0.10 from \$10.10.

COPPER was firm, with March 1980 contracts at \$1.10, up \$0.01 from \$1.09. The spot price was \$1.09, up \$0.01 from \$1.08.

PLATINUM was up, with March 1980 contracts at \$1,000.00, up \$20.00 from \$980.00. The spot price was \$980.00, up \$20.00 from \$960.00.

PALADIUM was up, with March 1980 contracts at \$400.00, up \$10.00 from \$390.00. The spot price was \$390.00, up \$10.00 from \$380.00.

RUDE METALS were mixed, with March 1980 contracts for tin at \$15,000.00, up \$200.00 from \$14,800.00. The spot price was \$14,800.00, up \$200.00 from \$14,600.00.

LEAD was up, with March 1980 contracts at \$1,000.00, up \$10.00 from \$990.00. The spot price was \$990.00, up \$10.00 from \$980.00.

ZINC was up, with March 1980 contracts at \$1,000.00, up \$10.00 from \$990.00. The spot price was \$990.00, up \$10.00 from \$980.00.

NICKEL was up, with March 1980 contracts at \$1,000.00, up \$10.00 from \$990.00. The spot price was \$990.00, up \$10.00 from \$980.00.

CADAM was up, with March 1980 contracts at \$1,000.00, up \$10.00 from \$990.00. The spot price was \$990.00, up \$10.00 from \$980.00.

COBALT was up, with March 1980 contracts at \$1,000.00, up \$10.00 from \$990.00. The spot price was \$990.00, up \$10.00 from \$980.00.

SELENIUM was up, with March 1980 contracts at \$1,000.00, up \$10.00 from \$990.00. The spot price was \$990.00, up \$10.00 from \$980.00.

ANTIMONY was up, with March 1980 contracts at \$1,000.00, up \$10.00 from \$990.00. The spot price was \$990.00, up \$10.00 from \$980.00.

ARSENIC was up, with March 1980 contracts at \$1,000.00, up \$10.00 from \$990.00. The spot price was \$990.00, up \$10.00 from \$980.00.

GERMANIUM was up, with March 1980 contracts at \$1,000.00, up \$10.00 from \$990.00. The spot price was \$990.00, up \$10.00 from \$980.00.

INDIUM was up, with March 1980 contracts at \$1,000.00, up \$10.00 from \$990.00. The spot price was \$990.00, up \$10.00 from \$980.00.

TELLURUM was up, with March 1980 contracts at \$1,000.00, up \$10.00 from \$990.00. The spot price was \$990.00, up \$10.00 from \$980.00.

THALLIUM was up, with March 1980 contracts at \$1,000.00, up \$10.00 from \$990.00. The spot price was \$990.00, up \$10.00 from \$980.00.

WOLFRAM was up, with March 1980 contracts at \$1,000.00, up \$10.00 from \$990.00. The spot price was \$990.00, up \$10.00 from \$980.00.

YTERBIUM was up, with March 1980 contracts at \$1,000.00, up \$10.00 from \$990.00. The spot price was \$990.00, up \$10.00 from \$980.00.

TERBIUM was up, with March 1980 contracts at \$1,000.00, up \$10.00 from \$990.00. The spot price was \$990.00, up \$10.00 from \$980.00.

ERBIUM was up, with March 1980 contracts at \$1,000.00, up \$10.00 from \$990.00. The spot price was \$990.00, up \$10.00 from \$980.00.

THULIUM was up, with March 1980 contracts at \$1,000.00, up \$10.00 from \$990.00. The spot price was \$990.00, up \$10.00 from \$980.00.

PRASEODYMIUM was up, with March 1980 contracts at \$1,000.00, up \$10.00 from \$990.00. The spot price was \$990.00, up \$10.00 from \$980.00.

NEODYMIUM was up, with March 1980 contracts at \$1,000.00, up \$10.00 from \$990.00. The spot price was \$990.00, up \$10.00 from \$980.00.

PROMETHIUM was up, with March 1980 contracts at \$1,000.00, up \$10.00 from \$990.00. The spot price was \$990.00, up \$10.00 from \$980.00.

SAMARIUM was up, with March 1980 contracts at \$1,000.00, up \$10.00 from \$990.00. The spot price was \$990.00, up \$10.00 from \$980.00.

EUROPIUM was up, with March 1980 contracts at \$1,000.00, up \$10.00 from \$990.00. The spot price was \$990.00, up \$10.00 from \$980.00.

GADOLINIUM was up, with March 1980 contracts at \$1,000.00, up \$10.00 from \$990.00. The spot price was \$990.00, up \$10.00 from \$980.00.

TERBIUM was up, with March 1980 contracts at \$1,000.00, up \$10.00 from \$990.00. The spot price was \$990.00, up \$10.00 from \$980.00.

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PROMETHIUM was up, with March 1980 contracts at \$1,000.00, up \$10.00 from \$990.00. The spot price was \$990.00, up \$10.00 from \$980.00.

SAMARIUM was up, with March 1980 contracts at \$1,000.00, up \$10.00 from \$990.00. The spot price was \$990.00, up \$10.00 from \$980.00.

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